

COMMUNITY

Hyrniewicz Park redesign concepts getting more tweaks

By Jonah Snowden
jsnowden@turley.com

PALMER – If there is one thing to take from the recent public hearing on Hyrniewicz Park, the redesign process of the project is being taken very seriously.

With the assistance and guidance of Berkshire Design Group Principal Carlos Nieto, three concepts of the park were introduced to the residents on June 30. In the first concept, Nieto said the current structure of the park would remain the status quo.

“We have kept this circulation very similar to what it is right now, meaning we still have the classical center in a place where you have your monument and paths that are going to it, but what we’ve added here is a path or a sidewalk that goes all the way around,” Nieto said.

“I look at circulation, that’s kind of the bones of the park. So, the way you walk around the park is going to establish how we are organizing these spaces.”

In the first concept, Nieto also brought the playground closer to the gazebo and discussed the possibility of a skate park being added to the overall area.

In the second concept, the inside of the park has been altered.

“In this one in particular, what we’ve done is we’ve created earthworms,”

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GOVERNMENT



Turley Publication photos by Michel Harrison

Katie Olszta, former Brimfield police officer Ryan Olszta’s sister, talks to a resident who showed up for the first day of a petition drive to recall Brimfield Select Board Chair Suzanne Collins.

Recall petition drive against selectwoman picks up steam

By Michael Harrison
mharrison@turley.com

BRIMFIELD – Ryan Olszta may or may not ever be reinstated as a town police officer, but his supporters aren’t taking no for an answer.

Nearly a month ago, Olszta was the only one of nine Brimfield police officers not given a new contract despite a recommendation by Chief Charlie Kuss that

all of them be retained.

A motion to reinstate Olszta at Monday night’s select board meeting was stalled on a 2-2 vote with one member, who voted against the now-former officer on June 28, absent from the meeting after trying to resign last week – though he apparently is still technically a selectman.

Before the meeting, some of Olszta’s supporters, led by his sister Katie Olszta, held a demon-

stration as part of an effort to recall select board Chair Suzanne Collins, one of the three who voted against retaining Ryan Olszta last month. Collins and Martin Kelly voted to deny the motion for his reinstatement while Selectmen Mike Doyle and Paul McCarthy voted to retain Olszta.

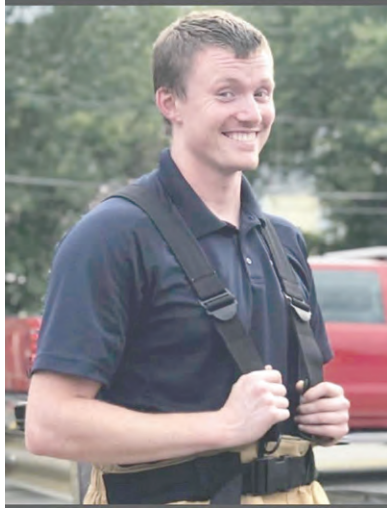
The recall drive got underway July 14 when Katie Olszta

RECALL | page 5

PUBLIC SAFETY

Spotlight on: Colin Morse, Firefighter/Paramedic

‘OK, this is cool. This is what I want to do’



Courtesy photo

Colin Morse came back home to Monson to serve the community not just as a firefighter and paramedic, but also as someone who just cares about his town.

Editor’s note: The Monson Fire Department’s station house was built in 1978 and now an audit is underway to help determine a plan for bringing the facility up to modern standards. This is the second installment of a periodic series on the MFD and its personnel.

By Kimberly Palmucci
Correspondent

MONSON — Since he was a child, Firefighter/Paramedic Colin Morse always knew he wanted to work in emergency services.

“That was constant from the time I was in preschool,” Morse said.

“There’s pictures of me in police officer outfits and firefighter

helmets as a little kid.”

Now, Morse—a Monson native—works for the Monson Fire Department and he attributes his lifelong goal of working in emergency services to the way he was raised by his mother.

“She would always do charity events anytime anyone needed help. She was all for it,” he said.

“She was always involved in the community. Anytime a family fell on hard times, she would do a charity event for them...growing up having that as my role model is really where that started to develop.”

Morse grew up in Monson until seventh grade, at which point he moved to Wilbraham and attended Minnechaug and then Westfield State University, where he received a Criminal Justice degree with a minor in Psychology.

Morse has been with the Monson Fire Department for three years, where he started as a call/volunteer member, and then transitioned to a Firefighter/EMT, and finally a Firefighter/Paramedic. Morse said part of the reason why he felt drawn back to his hometown was the opportunity to serve even when it’s not responding to an emergency.

“Working in Monson is challenging and rewarding at the same time,” he said.

“You have to be a jack of all trades,” Morse said, adding that there is a lot of “community involvement” when working in a town such as Monson.

“You might show up to help install smoke alarms for someone because they have issues getting up on a ladder...during the winter, you might shovel paths in driveways and put salt down. You really have to be involved in the community. “I’m more than just a Firefighter/Paramedic. I’m a community servant,

MORSE | page 5

COMMUNITY

Volunteers help local seniors who want to ‘age in place’

By Michael Harrison
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HOLLAND – It all started with the book.

First Robin Cournoyer read it. Then she turned Linda Racine on to it. Before long, the two spearheaded a project with the Holland Community/Senior Center that connects elderly residents who live alone with volunteers who help with everyday chores younger or more able folks may take for granted.

Just as important, the volunteers help local seniors from suffering the crippling effects of isolation.

The book is “Alone and Invisible No More” by Dr. Alan Teel and the project is Holland Helpers, the center’s latest outreach.

“I was speaking with a nurse who does consulting work and is a health advocate for seniors,” Cournoyer, 62, an Occupation Nursing professor at Goodwin University, said.

“She told me about the book and felt I would be interested in reading it.”

Cournoyer shared it with obvious intent. Racine, 72, chairs the town’s Council on Aging.

“Seniors need help as they age and can no longer do the things they used to do for themselves,” Racine, a retired IT business applications developer, said.

“I liked the aspect of seniors helping each other as well as be-



Courtesy photo

A new volunteer program called Holland Helpers at the Holland Community/Senior Center is helping seniors who need some assistance “age in place.” Shown here (from left) are: Charlotte McIntyre, Robin Wilson, Outreach and Community Center Director Brenda Palmer, Council on Aging Chair Linda Racine, Robin Cournoyer, Donna Allard, and Suanne Hilbert.

ing helped. It gives them a sense of purpose and fosters new friendships.”

For decades, the trend in the U.S. was for older residents, especially those living alone, to transition from their longtime home to assisted living facilities – and for many, whether they wanted to or not. Now, the idea of “aging in place” is growing in popularity. Sometimes, it just takes a helping hand.

Working with the premise Holland “has always been a supportive community where neighbors are always willing to help each other,” Holland Senior Center and Outreach Coordinator Brenda Palmer was all-in on creating a volunteer-based program that makes it easier for local seniors in need to age in place.

After the last Holland Helpers

HOLLAND | page 5

GOVERNMENT

Special election on hold after technicality cited



Courtesy photo

Supporters of former police officer Ryan Olszta gathered outside prior to Monday’s Brimfield Select Board meeting to protest the board’s 3-2 vote against retaining him while also soliciting signatures for a recall petition calling for a vote to remove Select Board Chair Suzanne Collins.

By Michael Harrison
mharrison@turley.com

BRIMFIELD — Residents hoping a date would be set Monday night for a special election to fill a seat on the town’s select board were quickly disappointed.

Earlier this month, on July 6, Pat Leaming announced his resignation from the board via a letter he sent to board Chair Suzanne Collins. He was not present at that meeting, Monday night, the public was told Leaming remains a member of the select board because he

needs to inform Town Clerk Debra Fagerstrom if he wishes to resign.

Several residents questioned the process and asked what options the town has if Leaming does not contact Fagerstrom and re-state his resignation. Essentially none, they were told.

“An act of Congress wouldn’t change anything,” Fagerstrom said.

Leaming, who served previous terms on the select board but had been out of office, was elected in the most recent town election, meaning there is nearly three years left on his term. As of Tuesday af-

ternoon, Fagerstrom had not heard from Leaming, she said.

Residents could file a recall vote petition like one did last week in an attempt to remove Collins. That petition has nearly half the signatures needed to set a recall referendum in motion.

In the announcement from Leaming that Collins read aloud July 6, he cited backlash on social media and other reaction to his role in the board voting 3-2 the prior week not to retain popular police

ELECTION | page 5





CHARLENE

A rescue who came all the way from Texas last year, Charlene, a 1-year-old Jack-Chi, is a friendly gal. "She loves walks and meeting new friends at the Dog Park in Ware!" Sheri Bernal says.

Do you have a pet that makes your life special (not limited to dogs and cats)? We feature your pets every week here and on Facebook. Just email a high-quality jpg and some information, including your pet's name, your name, and town, to mharrison@turley.com.

NEW RETIREE HONORED



Courtesy Photo

Rosalie J. Lopes recently retired as treasurer, clerk, and accountant for the Bondsville Fire and Water District after 34 years of service to the residents of Bondsville. Her retirement was effective June 29. Shown here with Lopes are State Rep. Todd Smola and State Sen. Anne Gobi, who presented Lopes with citations honoring her for her service.

Here's the scoop: Free ice cream at First American

First American Insurance Agency, an independent insurance firm, is celebrating its first anniversary in the Brimfield area by hosting a client appreciation event noon to 3 p.m. on July 27.

Clients and non-clients alike can enjoy free ice cream*, chat with the staff, and enter to win Woosox tickets.

"We appreciate Brimfield and the surrounding areas, tight-knit community," agency President Corey Murphy said.

"As a small business, we are grateful for their continued support over

the last year. We are a dedicated team, whether that is through servicing our client's policy or volunteering in our community. We look forward to many years in the Brimfield area."

Founded in 1986 in Chicopee, First American Insurance Agency has been serving local communities for 35-years. The newest branch located at 30 Sturbridge Road in Brimfield was the result of an acquisition last year.

*Ice cream available while supplies last

Palmer resident charged with rape in N.Y.

New York State Police arrested a Palmer man last week authorities say is a suspect in the abduction and sexual assault of a woman in Beekmantown, N.Y.

According to a news release from the New York State Police,

on July 16, 31-year-old Michael A. Ramos-Perez of Palmer was arrested and charged with the alleged forcible raped of the victim at around 6:15 p.m. the day before. Police say the victim was walking when she was forced into a van. The victim was then driven a short distance, forcibly raped, and released.

Ramos-Perez was charged with Rape first degree, Kidnapping second degree, Criminal Mischief fourth degree,

and two counts of Criminal Sexual Act first degree. He was arraigned in the Town of Beekmantown Court and remanded to the Clinton County Jail in lieu of \$65,000 cash bail, or \$175,000 bond.

At press time, Ramos-Perez remained in custody.

State Police were assisted in this investigation by the Clinton County Sheriff's Office, Clinton County District Attorney's Office, Plattsburgh City Police Department, Drug Enforcement Administration's Plattsburgh Regional Office, United States Border Patrol, New York State Intelligence Center, and the North Country Crime Analysis Center.

Major milestones for Atlas the ailing kitty

BRIMFIELD — If you follow Here Today, Adopted Tomorrow Animal Sanctuary, on Facebook, you've probably heard of Atlas, the lap-loving tabby who can't seem to catch a break — until now!

Last month, Atlas went to the veterinary clinic at Tufts University for a special eye surgery. The surgery was to correct entropion, a condition which causes the eyelashes to point inwards, creating ulcers.

The poor boy was so swollen, he couldn't open his eyes.

Thanks to generous support from the community, the monthly donors in the Here Today Club, and a \$1,000 grant from MVMA Charities, Atlas received his surgery and is recovering well in the shelter.

Just a few days after the procedure, his swelling had reduced and he was able to open his eyes for the first time ever.

"We are so proud of Atlas and all of the progress he has made," HTAT said in a statement.

"This boy is the definition of a trooper. Despite painful facial swelling and a slow-healing belly wound, he never hisses, bites or scratches (and



Thanks to the community's support, Atlas the kitty in the care of Here Today, Adopted Tomorrow Animal Sanctuary had much-needed surgery and now can open his eyes and see.

we wouldn't blame him if he did)! All he wants is to snuggle up with a human who will scratch his chin, cheeks, and ears. Atlas' recovery is far from over, but once he's healed and ready for adoption, he's sure to make his future family very happy."

HTAT has reopened for in-person visits and adoptions. To inquire about Atlas, learn more about the sanctuary and adoption facility, go to heretoday-sanctuary.org or visit them on Facebook.

DEADLINE

The Journal Register has changed its firm deadline for public submissions to Mondays. To get your submission in for that week's edition, email Editor at mharrison@turley.com or call the office at 413-283-8393 by noon on Mondays. We appreciate the cooperation of our readers.

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The Journal Register OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$100, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.



Turley Publications File Photo

On June 30, three concepts of the redesign of Hyniewicz Park were introduced to residents of Palmer and surrounding villages. Now one of those plans is being tweaked before it's revealed to the public.

PARK | from page 1

Nieto said. "When I say 'earthworms,' I mean mounds. In here, we are thinking that the playground equipment could be done by moving dirt around and then having a play surface on top of that."

As for the third concept, Nieto introduced a green triangle into the park.

"We still understood that the parking was important, so we kept as much of the parking around, (but) we did have to eliminate some of it," Nieto said.

"It's a constant issue that could be improved by having some traffic calming features in there. If we are moving and pushing ourselves out of the park, we should be looking into how we bring people in there and how we've managed some of that traffic."

Since the meeting, Director of the Community Development Sarah Szczebak said none of the designs are set in stone.

"We are working on a modified version of one of the concepts that has some elements from one of the other concepts," Szczebak said.

"We'll work out the details with the committee made of local residents who are going to figure out how to incorporate all of the public feedback into the final design."

To provide input on what you would like to see in the refurbished park or if you have questions, call the Community Development Office at 413-283-2614.

Corrections

The Journal Register will gladly correct factual errors that appear in this paper. Corrections or clarifications will always appear on Page 2 or 3. To request a correction, send information to Editor at mharrison@turley.com, or call 283-8393, extension 236. Corrections may also be requested in writing at: Journal Register, Attn: Editor 24 Water St., Palmer, MA, 01069.

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There's magic in the air at Hitchcock Academy

The Tommy James Magic Show premieres on the Hitchcock Academy lawn in Brimfield at 4 p.m. Monday, July 26.

Master magician Tommy James brings a show that combines a special blend of magic, comedy, wonder, and surprise for kids of all ages. Awarded the 2010 International Family Performer of the year award, Tommy James along with his "magical" bunny, Miracle, promises to put on a roller coaster ride of a show.

James began entertaining at the age of 14, when he performed for his grandmother's Grange group; from there he branched out to 4-H clubs, schools, and local civic organizations. Over the next 30 years his reputation expanded and today he is recognized as one of the premier kids show magicians in the world. The Tommy James Magic Show promises to be a summer highlight for the whole family.

Tickets for this event are \$15 each (\$10 for a fourth ticket and up if ordering more than three) and are available at hitchcockacademy.org when you click on the Summer Programs link. If the weather does not cooperate the show will be moved inside to the upper auditorium.

Even more to do

Hitchcock Academy is pleased to announce a partnership with ART-ventures to present kid's summer art programming. With a dash of whimsy and a dollop of fun, ART-ventures programming provides talented instructors to encourage children to explore art while fostering their creativity through exposure to a variety of tools, techniques, and materials. Each program session includes T-shirt creations and two or three awesome works of art each day.

Program sessions run Monday through Friday the first three weeks of August from 9 a.m.-noon with each week having its own theme. For more



Courtesy photo

From a magic show to concerts, outdoor movies after dark and more, Hitchcock Free Academy has a variety of family-friendly activities and events.

information and to register for one week, two weeks or all three weeks, head to hitchcockacademy.org.

On Saturday, July 31, find out why, "Goonies never say die," when you follow Chunk and his friends as they hunt for the pirate treasure that will save their neighborhood. "The Goonies" debuts on Hitchcock Academy's big outdoor screen as part of the HFA Midsummer Nights Free Movies on the Lawn. "The Goonies" shows at dusk, but moviegoers are encouraged to come early to pick a prime lawn spot and pass the time by playing games provided by Hitchcock or brought from home.

This fan-favorite movie is free of charge thanks to the Oscar Sponsorship of First American Insurance Agency and the Golden Globe sponsorship of Viant.

Music lovers can delight in the magic spell cast by great music on Wednesdays July 28, Aug. 4, Aug. 18, and Aug. 25 at 6 p.m. on the Brimfield Common. The summer series features a variety of genres from local favorite bands: Time Stretchers, Radio Ranch (sponsored by the Monson Lions Club), Frozen Red and The James Paul Band.

This summer Brimfield is a small town with big community happenings as Hitchcock Free Academy continues to work to provide activities to foster a spirit of joy.

Monson grad selected for Garden Club award



Class of 2021 Monson High School graduate Olivia Colling is the recipient of Monson Garden Club's scholarship this year. She was chosen based on academic achievements along with the personal qualities of citizenship and leadership. She received \$500 to help continue with her education in the field of biology at Wheaton College in Norton. Since 1991 the club has awarded \$26,750 in scholarships to 51 local students.

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Submit cover letter and resume to the Brookfield Highway Department, 56 Mill St. Brookfield, MA 01506 no later than July 30, 2021. EEO Employer



Courtesy photo

Victor Henney, 15, of Palmer, is a video game developer.

Young entrepreneur turned his gaming into a business

By Diane Kane

PALMER — The next generation of young businesspeople are living and growing in South Quabbin.

Victor Henney, 15, is a fully remote student attending Palmer High School. He is the developer of Battle Chicken, an online platform where he makes video games.

"My first attempt at a mobile game with the goal of making a profit was 'A Snail In A Pipe,' an arcade-style game," Henney said.

"The goal of the game was to control a snail sliding around a spiral tube collecting goldfish while avoiding random walls."

Henney has been making games for a few years now. He receives a lot of support from his family.

"My father and uncle have encouraged me to learn computer programming for many years," he said. "But only recently, I decided to try to monetize them."

Henney learned to make games from watching YouTube tutorials and various other tutorials across the internet.

"I used an app called Solo Learn to learn code using the programming language C#. My friend Joe drew the logo for the business and draws sprites for the games."

Henney says the best part of running his own operation is the freedom.

"I can work on any game I want. Nobody is dictating my schedule or telling me what game I have to work on."

But Henney admits making money is fairly difficult.

"Not many people are willing to pay for a mobile game, especially from a developer they have never seen before. As a result of this, I use incentivized advertising. This is a form of advertising where instead of frequently displaying ads, the user gets rewarded

for watching them. This can take the form of additional life or in-game currency."

Henney has a couple of new games in the works, and they will launch on the site soon.

"One of these games is 'Cockadoodle Boom,' a puzzle game where you strap explosives to a chicken and launch it to its nest."

Henny relies primarily on word of mouth from his family and friends.

"I have begun promoting my games on Youtube through the use of Dev Logs (a video showing progress on the creation of a project) and Instagram."

Henney is saving up the money to add online multiplayer to some of his existing games and pay for the licenses to publish to other platforms (IOS, Nintendo Switch, Steam, etc.).

"When I'm older, I would like to work for Ubisoft, an awesome company known for making large-scale games like 'Tom Clancy's Rainbow Six Siege' and 'Assassins Creed.'"

The teen says he likes living in Palmer.

"It is very clean and has a nice layout," he said.

"But, beyond the visual appeal, I'm disappointed that robotics has been removed from our school. I was able to take the robotics course my freshman year."

He said he hopes it will be offered again and would like to take other computer science-based classes in the future.

So, what's next in the immediate future?

"Battle Chicken" will continue to make awesome games," Henney said, "but in the meantime, go download A Snail In A Pipe from the Google Play store!"

Diane Kane is a freelance writer from Phillipston. She writes articles, short stories, and children's books.

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Viewpoints

Weathering those whacky atmospheric conditions

Usually, in New England, as the adage states, “If we wait a minute the weather will change.” However, with July’s record-breaking rainfall, that hasn’t happened. While hip-booting through pooling puddles recently, the thought drizzled through my mind, to dive into discovering more about the meteorological conditions. Did you know that the atmospheric conditions have global, national and local definitions? Surprisingly the categories are: the air surrounding our planet Earth, our national and/or local air, and – remarkably – the influences in our personal environment. While clarifying those weather types and making a down-to-earth lightning-bolt connection with our recent, record-breaking rainfall, and thunder storms, perhaps there are true-to-life experiences in our home fronts that boom with the exceptional and the unexpected? Using weather terms, are there occasional anomalies that not only occur within the outer atmospheric places, but also happen within our personal spaces? It’s most amusing to consider climate changes within household walls. These terms can apply to all ages and even to our four-footed friends. Maybe most of us can fit any of these, or all of life’s atmospheric conditions, under our weather-worn umbrellas? Think about a few weather terms and compare them to your personal spaces. (And, if you find similarities, you’re permitted to chuckle and giggle.) Warm front. Cold fronts. Fast freeze. Fog. Hail. Mist. Microburst. Storm surge. Turbulence. Twilight. Wind shears. There are times when having our own, compact atmospheric, weather-predicting radar screen would be incredibly helpful. That small instrument could show and perhaps even predict any occurring instability in the atmosphere. While driving through the northern area of New England and seeing an Arora borealis display in the night sky is akin to a painter’s pallet splashing a celestial constellation. Pertaining to local open-air atmospheric preferences: any sunrise, sunset, or twilight time is a Mater’s Piece painted for all to enjoy. Another favorite weather phenomenon is produced when the sun shines through clear water droplets projecting a radiant range of color. And, as in Noah’s Ark days, after the rain, there was a brilliant rainbow- a promise of hope to all God’s creatures. Even for our to-days, the rainbow is a sign of hope for all while weathering all atmosphere conditions.

GUEST COLUMNIST



JOAN E. B. COOMBS



Summer pruning questions answers

Lisa, who gardens in Ware, wanted to know how to prune her rugosa roses so that they look their best. “I loved these roses the first year and the second year they looked pretty good too, but now, in year three, the roses have lots of dark, old wood with sparse growth. Do you have any suggestions as to how to make the plant look youthful again?”

Experts say that besides cutting away unwanted suckers, little pruning is necessary on Rugosa roses other than to remove deadwood in spring. But in my opinion, and apparently yours too, older stems give the shrub a coarse look. To encourage new growth simply cut away the oldest canes just above ground level. Some people like the look of new growth so much that in late winter entire plants are cut to within inches of the ground. New buds will break, and fresh young bushes will grow up and flower as usual.

One can’t think of a rose without considering the thorn factor. Yes, rugosas are especially thorny. People often plant them to keep animals or other unwanted guests out of areas of their yard. Taller varieties are especially effective when planted under birdfeeders. Birds have a place to hide while they dine where predators can’t reach them.

A reader from Palmer wrote in with this question: “I have a hedge of yews that I shear with electric clippers each August. The shrubs look good from a distance, but up close it’s a different story. It seems that there is dense growth on the outer couple of inches only, not much at all within the plants. I want to reduce the height and width of the hedge. Is there any way to do it without revealing all of that dead growth at once or is it unavoidable?”

Great question, since many folks will be pruning their hedges over the next few weeks. I would recommend reducing the size of your yews gradually over a couple of years, that way you’ll avoid them looking really bad for the remainder of the summer and then some. Here’s how to do it: Rather than using your

hedge shears this summer, pick up a pair of hand clippers instead. Grab a section of new growth in one hand, with the other hand use the clippers to glide along the branch well within the shrub to a cross piece, then make your cut. If you need to “look” the first few times, then do so, but this action will become quite natural after awhile. Your goal is to make “windows” for light to penetrate the inside of the bush. Evenly space these deep cuts along the top, sides and end of your hedge. Next year do the same. By the third or fourth year, you will have enough new growth coming from within the plant to finally reduce it down to the size you wish without having to endure an ugly phase.

A gardener from Monson loves butterfly bush. “Do you have any advice on how to prune this beautiful shrub so that I will be guaranteed flowers year after year?”

Sure, butterfly bush (Buddleia davidii) is easy to please as long as you bear in mind that it blooms on the current season’s growth. For that reason, prune it just after it comes out of winter dormancy, as soon as you see buds begin to break along the stem. A hard pruning generally results in larger flowers. After a mild winter, your six-foot tall butterfly bush may break bud at four feet. If you cut off the winter kill but leave it at four feet, you’ll likely have fewer flowers than if you reduced it to 18 inches or so. You will reinvigorate the plant by cutting it back hard. It will make up the lost height in no time with new, healthy growth capable of producing numerous flowers. Calling all butterflies!

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 28 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturalist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to ekennedy@turley.com with “Gardening Question” in the subject line.

IN THE GARDEN



Roberta McQuaid
Columnist

Letters to the Editor

We all should share tax burden

The bipartisan infrastructure package looks like it may go ahead. The issue is how to fund it. The Republicans want to use user fees which is a higher gas tax and tolls on roads which will burden common folk. The Democrats want to tax the rich which is fair but difficult to do. The mega-rich have skipped federal tax for some time. Ronald Reagan started the great expansion of inequality by separating capital gains and dividends from ordinary income with a lower tax rate. George W. Bush gave two additional tax cuts for the wealthy. Trump gave them another tax cut in 2017. The rich have funded many Republican campaigns to achieve this. They do it by not declaring any salary or wages. There is nothing to put on line 7 of the 1040 form. Instead they “borrow” against their vast holdings. There is no tax on loans. Warren Buffet paid ten cents on each \$100 he added to his wealth. That is a rate of .001%. Elon Musk of Tesla paid nothing at all in 2018. Michael Bloomberg, Jeff Bezos, and 25 of America’s richest individuals saw their wealth increase by \$401 billion from 2014 to 2018 while they paid a true rate of 3.4%. Better funding of the IRS to crack down on “tax cheats” will not change this because the mega-rich are not “cheats.” They are following the rules that they paid to have enacted.

The only way to make them contribute financially is a “wealth tax” as suggested by Elizabeth Warren. If they paid 4% on total wealth over say \$100 million and 5% on wealth of \$1 billion, that would fund the infrastructure proposal. They would never miss it. Bezos is reportedly worth \$196 billion. If he paid 5% on 195 of those billions (\$9.750 billion) he would have plenty left for a new yacht. Incidentally yachts, are sales tax-free in several states. They say this is not a giveaway to the rich because poor people are just as welcome to buy a \$20 million yacht and enjoy not paying sales tax.

It’s amazing what benefits you can buy if you have enough money. The super rich owe us. Our tax money has created the opportunities that allowed them to amass such great wealth. The current extreme inequality makes our country less stable and weaker. Too many are homeless and hungry, especially children. That does not make a nation strong.

Malita Brown
Wilbraham

Shame on the ‘undeserving’

I saw in the July 8 edition that Monson is now eligible for \$1.7M in COVID-19 relief funding. At first I thought that it was a great move for the town and then I had to laugh. The committee that has decided upon this have, obviously, not done their homework. How do you grant such a large sum of funds to a town that was consistently in the red zone throughout the entire height of the pandemic? Calling it relief or not is not the question, but how? During that time there were way too many people who, including elected town officials, refused to wear masks. Now those same people are going to, or at least try, to reap the benefits of those who did adhere to the safety precautions that were set into place. It’s a real shame that we can not single out those exact people, but we know who you are, so that you in no way receive any funds from the so-called relief. And if you do, look next door to that neighbor who you made fun of for wearing a mask and thank them, because you are undeserving. The entire amount, no matter what it is, should go to the shops and restaurants of the town that enforced the guidelines and stayed vigilant to ensure the safety of the people who visited those establishments. This is not a per-person gift. It goes to: Woodbine, Adam’s, Monson Pizza, The Tavern, Walgreens...and to their employees who had to, and with a smile, endure the likes of the undeserving.

Joseph Naughton
Monson

Election letters to the editor welcome

The Journal Register welcomes readers to participate in this year’s election campaigns by writing letters to the editor for publication on these pages. Letters of up to 250 words from local residents endorsing candidates on the ballot or discussing campaign issues should be sent to The Journal Register, care of Turley Publications, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, faxed to 413-289-1977 or emailed to mharrison@turley.com. Please include a daytime telephone number for verification purposes (it will not be printed). Letters must be received by noon Monday to be considered for that Thursday’s newspaper. No attack letters will be printed. No letters written by candidates supporting their own candidacy will be printed. If the volume of letters received is larger than the space available in the newspaper, or if the letters become repetitive, the newspaper reserves the right to print a representative sample. No endorsement letters will be printed in the last edition before the election.

For more information, call editor Michael Harrison at 413-283-8393.

Campaign news As part of its election coverage, the newspaper plans to print stories about contested races for Congress, state Senate, state House, district attorney and Governor’s Council during the weeks leading up to the election, as well as a question-and-answer voters guide. In order to ensure fairness to all candidates, no political press releases will be printed, nor will reporters cover political rallies or fundraisers. Candidates who wish to further publicize their candidacy, beliefs and events may contact advertising, 413-283-8393 about paid advertising in The Journal Register.

Letters to the editor policy

Letters to the editor should be 250 words or less in length, and guest columns between 500-800 words. No unsigned or anonymous opinions will be published. We require that the person submitting the opinion also include his or her town of residence and home telephone number. We must confirm authorship prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions deemed to be libelous, unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks, or defamation of character.

Please send opinions to: **The Journal Register Letter to the Editor** 24 Water St., Palmer MA 01069, or by e-mail to: mharrison@turley.com

The submission deadline for consideration is Monday at noon.

HISTORY MATTERS

History Matters is a biweekly feature courtesy of The Grateful American Book Prize, which is given to children’s books that emphasize the importance of American history. A biweekly feature courtesy of

July 16 to July 31

By John Grimaldi and David Bruce Smith

On July 17, 1975, a coterie of astronauts and cosmonauts rendezvoused in the stars. According to some, America and the Soviet Union had a “heavenly embrace” moment, for the first time since Apollo 18, and Soyuz 19 anchored in orbit. Their commanders, Aleksei Leonov and Thomas P. Stafford, greeted each other amiably, and dedicated two days of experimenting with in-space rescue missions for contingency reasons. “Back on Earth, United Nations Secretary General Kurt Waldheim congratulated the two superpowers for the Apollo-Soyuz Test Project and praised their unprecedented spirit of cooperation and peace in planning and executing the mission,” according to History.com. Within 16 years, however, Russia’s powerful hold over its Eastern Bloc Republics fizzled; the Berlin Wall broke, and the Cold War went up in smoke. For more information, the Grateful American Book Prize recommends “Saving Freedom: Truman, the Cold War, and the Fight for Western Civilization” by Joe Scarborough. **Jack London** If the timing had been different, Jack London could have been a candidate for the Grateful American Book Prize, but he was born too early: San Francisco, 1876. On July 25, 1897, at the age of 21, he sailed to Canada’s Klondike territories during the apex of their Gold Rush flush, but instead of sweeping for a fabulous fortune, London perused the land, its indigenous people, and pondered the plethora of pig-gish prospectors who grabbed for gold. London’s adventures surfaced in the form of a successful debut short story collection called “The Son of the Wolf: Tales of the Far North.” Three years later, “The Call of the Wild,” a story of an abducted dog, was released, and became a bestseller, that permanently pivoted the author’s profile of prestige from evanescent to evergreen.

COMMENTS ON CONGRESS

The Fight Over Voting Rights

By Lee H. Hamilton
Guest columnist

Call me naïve, but I’ve never quite gotten why some politicians want to limit voters’ ability to cast their ballots. Sure, I know that plenty of people like to flip the classic Clausewitz quote and say that politics is war by other means. All’s fair, etc., they insist. But the cornerstone of representative democracy, the base on which everything else rests, is the people’s right to cast an informed vote to choose our leaders. There’s no argument about this: it’s just a basic right. Which means that the more Americans we hear from in the voting booth, the fairer and more representative the results. So, in my book, getting creative about restricting the ability to cast a ballot is pretty much an admission that you can’t win in the marketplace of ideas.

Over the course of our history, despite fits and starts, we’ve moved steadily toward expanding people’s ability to vote—from white men with property only, to allowing women, Black people, Native Americans, and people 18 and older to cast ballots. Yet here

we are in 2021, still in a pitched battle over this most basic of democratic rights—fought out this year in the state legislatures, Congress, and the courts, the same venues that have seen this issue for generations. And right now, it’s looking like as a nation we’re on a determined march backward. Thanks to new legislation in Georgia, county elections officials—the backbone of our democracy—are being removed as new local and state laws take aim at elections administration in a bid, bluntly put, to put people in authority who can tilt rules and regulations in their party’s favor. Secretaries of state are losing their power as legislatures across the country move to shift power over the running of elections to, well, themselves. This does not inspire confidence in the future of American democracy. Why? Because all these maneuvers take aim at the nitty-gritty details of running elections: voting hours; the locations of precincts and of ballot drop boxes; making it harder or easier for eligible voters to register; what’s in voter notifications—and who gets them; how often to purge voter

rolls (and of whom); the ability to certify elections. This is not about making voting fairer or easier for Americans. It’s about putting rules in place that make it harder. For a more-than-usually bold assertion of the partisan hue these moves take, you can look at Arizona: there, state legislators have introduced a bill that would take away authority from the secretary of state of the other party—until she leaves office, at which point the bill expires. Looking to the courts for help is dicey. The U.S. Supreme Court has just signaled its willingness to allow the core value embedded in the 1965 Voting Rights Act—that what happens on the ground matters, whatever the intent—to fall by the wayside. In its decision, the Court essentially said that there’s no legal recourse if you can’t prove that a legislature acted with racist intent, regardless of how things play out in real life. There are state courts pushing back against this direction—New Hampshire’s supreme court, for instance, just invalidated a law passed in 2017 because its impact fell unequally on voters. But that strikes me as a rearguard action.

When I began in politics, I thought it would be easy to protect the right to vote. I was dead wrong. One of my earliest votes in Congress was to support the 1965 Voting Rights Act, clearly one of the most important pieces of legislation in our country’s history—and the one that the Supreme Court just undermined. I am constantly amazed at how much time, energy, and effort some people put into denying other people the right to vote. This is a battle, and those of us who believe that the health of our democracy rests on ensuring fair, equal, and unfettered access to the ballot box for all eligible voters have our work cut out for us. Lee Hamilton is a senior advisor for the Indiana University Center on Representative Government; a Distinguished Scholar at the IU Hamilton Lugar School of Global and International Studies; and a Professor of Practice at the IU O’Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.

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Quabbin Community Band concert set for Sunday

BARRE – The Quabbin Community Band will play at Nornay Park, Main Street, in South Barre Sunday, July 25 at 6 p.m. The public is invited to attend and enjoy this wonderful evening of music for free with donations graciously accepted.

People may contact QCB music director and conductor Peter Lewis at pbl8772@gmail.com with any questions regarding performances or joining the band. Concerts will continue to run each Sunday through and including Aug. 15.



Turley Publication photos by Michel Harrison

Resident Danielle Kinghorn signs a recall petition again Brimfield Select Board Chair Suzanne Collins last week.

RECALL I from page 1

brought the petition to the Brimfield Elementary School playground for an hour late that afternoon. At press time, less than a week since the drive began, she's collected nearly half of the approximately 500 signatures needed to force a recall vote. The effort also has some people who missed the last town election in which Pat Leaming – the selectman who announced his resignation last week – and Kelly were elected – vowing not to miss another, especially if a vote to recall Collins occurs.

"I've been following what's happening," Lyne Field said.

"I'm embarrassed to say we missed the election because we just lost track, but we will vote in the next one."

Ricky Ricci said he signed the petition because he disagreed with criticism Olszta received regarding his enforcement of local ordinances in connection with the town's famous antique shows.

"He was told he was harassing people (while) doing his job," Ricci said.

"He was upholding the law. That's not harassing people. That's doing his job. He's a standup guy."

Resident Danielle Kinghorn said she believes Olszta losing the job he held for six years was over political reasons and not his job performance.

"There was no due process for him," she said. "The was no reason for it. It was a personal vendetta."

Among the first to sign the petition was Olszta's mother, Darleen Dalton.

"Hopefully this will help put my son back on his job," she said.

"He was an outstanding police officer. The comments from the board of selectmen was disrespectful to the whole town."

MORSE I from page 1

too," Morse added.

Monson Fire Chief Brian Harris couldn't say enough about Morse and the continuous training the department's personnel receive.

"Colin started his career as an on-call member of the department in June of 2018. He was then moved to a member of the career staff in July of 2019," Harris said.

"Since his start here he has given us 110 percent every time he shows up. Colin has attended the Massachusetts Fire Academy and obtained his firefighter I/II certification and more recently has become a Nationally Certified Paramedic. I expect Colin will make a big impact on our community over the course of his fire service career."

Initially, Morse got his degree in Criminal Justice because he wanted to be a police officer. But after working as a public safety officer at various locations through college and some involvement with the Springfield Police Department, he developed a "nagging feeling" that while this was a great job to have, "maybe it's not quite for me," he said.

"I went through a phase of trying to figure it out," he said.

"I know I want to be an emergency responder; I have this criminal justice degree...what do I do with it?"

Morse signed up for an EMT program in Springfield and, during that program, met with the Springfield Fire Department for an extrication day where he learned more about what the job is as an EMT.

"As they're cutting open a car, I saw them using the tools and talking about what they do and thought, 'OK, this is really cool. This is what I want to do.'"

And for anyone thinking of entering the field of emergency services, Morse said it's important to educate yourself.

"If you want to be a firefighter, visit a fire station. Ask them about their jobs, do a ride-along. I think it's huge to educate yourself early on," Morse said.

And for Morse, being a firefighter and paramedic is only part of the job.

"Your job is not just purely emergencies. It's to help people," he said. "It's rewarding being a part of the Monson Fire Department and working for the town I grew up in."

Community center offering meals and activities for all

HOLLAND — The Holland Community Center at 40 Brimfield Road offers fun, educational, and life-enriching activities for all ages. Here's a schedule for the rest of July and into August:

Every Monday

Mah Jongg – 10:15 a.m.
Take out Lunch – 11:45 a.m.
Lunch – noon
Texas Hold'em – 4:30 p.m.

Every Tuesday

Crafters Social – 10:30 a.m.
Dominoes – 10:30 a.m.

Every Wednesday

Mix it Up – 10 a.m.
Take out Lunch – 11:45 a.m.
Lunch – noon
Mah Jongg – 1 p.m.

Every Thursday

Food Drive – 11 a.m.
Cribbage – 12:15 p.m.
Pitch – 5 p.m.
Yoga – 6 p.m.

Special July events

Hip Hop Chair Dancing – 10:30 a.m. July 26

Dominoes – Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m.

Did you play dominoes as a kid? Have you heard of the Mexican Train version? We are playing every Tuesday at 10:30 a.m. If you've played before, or you're new to the game, it won't matter. We have lots of fun. We just learned about an app for counting the dots so you can play using dots, or using numbers, whichever you prefer. We already have a few new players and they're having a good time. RSVP encouraged but walk-ins allowed.



Whether you're an experienced dominoes player or are ready to learn how to play, the Holland Community Center is the place to do it.

Yoga classes

Yoga with Sharon Palmer is once again at the center in July. We are asking that you sign up for this class. Please bring your own mats, blanket/towel for knee protection, and strap. Everyone is encouraged to distance and sanitize their hands and mask or not mask as you are comfortable.

We ask that you sign up for weeks weeks at a time. The price for seniors over 60 is \$25 for six weeks and \$35 for those under 60. Prepaying for these classes will benefit you by not having to fuss with remembering money or checks each week or getting correct change.

You also save time and reduce stress. Prepaying also makes it easier for some to just come every week and not have to decide – you already paid for it, so why not go? Having a group who have made the six-week commitment helps to build our Yoga community.

If you do choose to not sign up for the six weeks, no worries! You can still

come into the class. \$5 for Seniors 60 and over and \$7 for under 60.

Helping Wales Community Pantry

We are still collecting food for the Wales Community Pantry. The Pantry serves the residents of Holland, Wales, and Brimfield. They need peanut butter, jelly, Spam, cereal, and other nonperishable goods. You can drop off food anytime or day the Center is open. Monetary Donations can be made out to Wales Community Pantry. Monetary Donations help the Pantry to order fresh meats and produce.

Need pet food?

Here Today, Adopted Tomorrow has been very generous helping the residents of Holland and other towns by bringing dog and cat food here each week. If you need some for your animals, please stop by any time we are open.

HOLLAND I from page 1

meeting in June, a core group of volunteers began working with seniors who either reached out for help or were identified through their association with the Senior Center.

"The group has already been extremely helpful," Palmer said.

One of the most urgent needs is transportation. There is an Elder Bus service that provides some rides, but it doesn't run often or far enough to meet demand. Volunteers also bring meals, make prescription runs, do odd jobs, and – this is critical according to the Teel book and others – spend time with the lonely seniors, even if just for a shopping trip.

"This is more on a personal level to individuals," Palmer said.

"(Volunteers) do things to get people out of the house and participating. This

group has the intent of even if it helps one person, it caters to what they need. Since the pandemic, people just want to get out of the house – go to lunch, go to Walmart and walk around. Holland Helpers has been a blessing to them right now."

With 40 years of health care experience, including the time she spent with Visiting Nurses, Cournoyer has volunteered at homeless shelters, health fairs, and other public education events. As a movement, aging in place was initially coined in 1999, she said, "by the Beacon Hill Village when a group of friends got together to brainstorm on how they could support each other and remain in their community," Cournoyer said.

"They have created a guide for communities to use to support their seniors, because many do not live close to family, the support of seniors has been the responsibility of the community."

ELECTION I from page 1

officer Ryan Olszta.

Olszta and his supporters say the three votes against including Olszta among the group of eight officers who received new contracts was politically motivated. Some, including Olszta, say they believe Olszta's sexual orientation was a factor. He was the only openly gay officer on the Brimfield police force.

With Leaming still technically a member of the elect board but absent from meetings, that leaves four members and the possibility of tie votes on motions.

Meanwhile, Olszta's status was a topic for a third consecutive meeting. Police Chief Charlie Kuss, who said he favored Olszta being retained along with the eight other officers, said Monday he was close to wrapping up an investigation into allegations that Olszta acted improperly while on duty in regard to enforcing local antique show ordinances.

That's what Olszta and his supporters refer to as a political vendetta against him. The show community, which includes Collins, can be cliquish, they say, surmising that when Olszta crossed them, it put his career in jeopardy.



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TFL is seeking a **Director of Adult Literacy/Operations Officer** who is passionate about helping adult learners meet their educational goals. The successful candidate will work closely with TFL's Board of Trustees, tutors, students, volunteers, and community businesses/organizations of the Quaboag Hills region and surrounding areas. General responsibilities will include: • Recruiting, matching, and training volunteer tutors. • Organizing and administering all programs of adult instruction, such as ESL, Reading, Writing, Math, HiSET, Computer Skills, and many more! • Being aware of community educational needs and interests. • Providing educational guidance to assist adult learners in meeting their educational goals. • Coordinating fundraising and promotional efforts with a team of volunteers.

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Go online for more

We are currently working on the town website for the Center and for Outreach. Take a look at those occasionally for updates:

town.holland.ma.us/community-center

town.holland.ma.us/council-aging-outreach-coordinator

town.holland.ma.us/council-aging

Be sure to check out the new Outreach page on Facebook at Holland-Outreach-Holland-MA.

Want more?

Here's are other activities that may interest you:

Crafter's Social and Quilting - Bring whatever you would like to work on, or learn something new from these talented ladies, or just sit and chat. Tuesday mornings at 10:30.

Hungry?

You can dine-in or take out meals on Mondays and Wednesdays. Take out Pick up is 11:45 a.m.-noon. Dine-in is at noon. A \$3 donation RSVP required. Due to a wonderful donation from the Holland Council on Aging, any Holland senior resident will be able to get their lunch for a \$3 suggested donation. *

For a \$5 suggested donation you will get the entrée, a side and dessert.

All ages are welcome to order.

The reservation needs to be in by the Thursday the week before so Rose will have ample time to get ingredients. Unfortunately, unlike some other centers, we do not have access to a food bank or commodities monthly, so the prices are higher for many items at this time. July menu:

July 26 – Meatloaf and fixings

July 28 – Veggie lasagna

* Please have exact change if possible.

"I liked the aspect of seniors helping each other as well as being helped," Racine said.

"It gives them a sense of purpose and fosters new friendships. Eight people attended the first meeting. Our membership has since grown to 16 volunteers. We have provided many rides for medical appointments, vaccines, and to our Town Meeting so far."

Palmer couldn't be more pleased.

"I just send an email to them and they take care of the rest," she said. "They're doing a fantastic job."

Want to know more?

The Holland Senior Center is located at 40 Brimfield Road. The next volunteer meeting will be held in September. Anyone who wants to learn more, request help, or volunteer can email outreach@hollandma.org or call 413-245-3163 or 413-245-7108, ext.115.

Gobi continues push to help homeowners affected by pyrrhotite

BOSTON – An amendment submitted by state Sen. Anne Gobi (D-Spencer) to the fiscal 2022 state budget extending the life and coverage area of the Crumbling Foundations Testing Reimbursement Program has been included in the final conference committee report, which was agreed upon by the two branches of the legislature. The amendment allocates an additional \$50,000 for the program, which reimburses homeowners at a rate of 100% for visual testing conducted by a licensed professional engineer up to \$400 and a rate of 75% for the testing of two core samples up to \$5,000.

First established through amendment by Gobi in the fiscal 2019 state budget, the program helps defray the cost of testing for the presence of the mineral aggregate, pyrrhotite, in the basement walls and foundations of homes located within a radius of J.J. Mottes Concrete Company, located in Stafford Springs, Connecticut. Gobi moved to extend that radius from 20 to 50 miles during this legislative session.

“This testing reimbursement program is a critical tool that will help the state gain a sense of the issue while relieving homeowners of a small bit of debt at the beginning of the process,” Gobi said. “We are starting to see more homeowners reach out from even further away than anticipated, and getting your foundation inspected by a licensed engineer is the first step towards remediation.”

Pyrrhotite, an iron sulfide mineral, has been found in the concrete aggregate of homes throughout central and western Massachusetts as well as in Connecticut. When exposed to water and oxygen,

this mineral begins to expand and decay, leading to spider and web-cracking that can cause the home foundation to inevitably fail.

It is estimated that as many as 2,000 homes in Massachusetts may be effected, and the testing program is the first form of financial relief being offered by to homeowners in this state. Connecticut has moved several steps ahead of the commonwealth in attacking the issue, with a legislatively funded captive insurance company having been established to oversee repairs and reimburse homeowners for costs. Their program has repaired more than 1,100 foundations at this time.

Gobi has submitted a bill, S.548 An Act Relative to Crumbling Concrete Foundations, to begin addressing the problem and implement recommendations made by the 2019 Legislative Special Commission established to study the issue.

Among other things the bill would require home sellers to disclose any repairs or testing done on the foundation to perspective buyers, would allow for residential property tax abatements to affected homeowners, and it would mandate that quarry operators test for the presence of pyrrhotite before opening new cells. The bill currently has 26 bipartisan cosponsors, and stands before the Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agricultural awaiting a hearing.

For more information about the amendment, foundation testing program, or legislation please contact Gobi’s office by email at Anne.Gobi@MASenate.gov.

First Church of Monson to hold Silver Street Chapel events

By Kimberly Palmucci
Correspondent

MONSON — The First Church of Monson has recently voted to partner with the Silver Street Chapel Society to offer services and events at the chapel throughout the year.

The first of these events will be a Blessing of the Chapel at 11 a.m. this Sunday, July 25. At this event, Rev. Peter Johnston, Pastor of First Church, will bless the space and guests will hear the history of the Chapel and have “a time of fellowship and refreshments,” said Johnston.

“The Silver Street Chapel is a rare architectural gem in the town of Monson,” said Pastor Johnston, adding that the event on July 25 will follow the church’s regular worship service.

After the service, members of the First Church of Monson, along with members of the public, will travel from the church to the chapel for a short service of rededication and blessing, marking the “renewed partnership with the Silver Street Chapel Society.”

The Silver Street Chapel was con-

structed in 1898 by the residents of the Silver Street neighborhood, said Johnston, because it was very difficult for residents in that area of town to get to the downtown churches for Sunday services during the winter months.

“For many years, First Church of Monson, Congregational, held worship services and events, such as parties, Christmas pageants, dances, and the like at the chapel. And so, this partnership is another chapter of the connection that First Church and the Silver Street Chapel have always shared,” he said.

The church has planned two other worship services at the chapel in 2021, including a public Blessing of the Animals service in October and a Christmas service with candlelight carols and stories in December. As with all of the church’s worship services, the public is invited, Johnston said.

“It is really a delight to begin offering religious services once again at the Silver Street Chapel. I’m blessed to be the pastor that reunites the Chapel and First Church once again. It will be very nice to have this intimate worship space available for smaller worship services.”

MR. HOCKEY FUNDRAISER

Tony Costa taught and mentored generations of local kids

By Michael Harrison
mharrison@turley.com

LUDLOW — Like a lot of kids, Tony Costa played a lot of sports growing up. He was good at all of them, too.

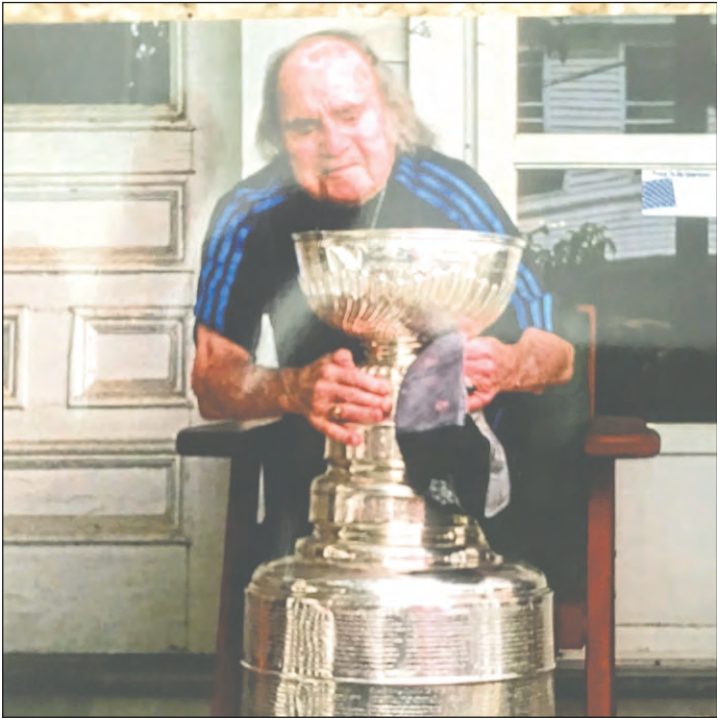
And like many New Englanders before and since, the first time he strapped on a pair of skates, hockey became his No. 1 passion. It’s no wonder he became known “Mr. Hockey” not just in his hometown of Ludlow, but throughout Western Mass. Though he passed in 2019, his legacy of encouraging, mentoring, and coaching local youth not just in sports but in life lives on through the Mr. Hockey Foundation created in Costa’s honor.

Even a pandemic couldn’t get in the way of last year’s first annual Mr. Hockey Golf Tournament to benefit the foundation. Organizers expect this year’s event, scheduled for Sept. 26 at Cold Spring Golf Course in Belchertown, to be even bigger and better.

Proceeds help area kids from financially struggling families, including those in Ludlow, Wilbraham, and Indian Orchard, participate in sports. Donations from last year’s tournament went toward scholarships, Ludlow High sports, and local service organizations. Some of the money was used to help people facing housing insecurity.

The list of local residents Costa influenced seems endless.

“Tony was like a father to me,” State Rep. Jake Olivei-



Courtesy photo

When the LA Kings won their first Stanley Cup after the 2011-12 season, General Manager Dean Lombardi, a Ludlow native, made sure Costa got to spend time with the trophy, which he brought to the Polish Club for all to enjoy. The second annual Mr. Hockey Golf Tournament is scheduled for Sept. 26 at Cold Spring Golf Course in Belchertown

ra, secretary of the tournament committee, said.

“He was like a grandfather or father to so many boys and girls in Western Mass. He taught me how to skate when I was three or four years old. Some kids didn’t have a dad at home and he just filled the void. He was just one of the best.”

A World War II veteran, if Costa came from hardened from

the experience, he didn’t show it. He had a soft spot for children and a knack for teaching them the fundamentals when they first started out and later, the finer points of hockey.

“Tony would do this kind of great thing where he’d get a bunch of change and line the board on the other side of the ice with dimes and nickels and even some quarters and you wanted

Low plate number lottery has begun

BOSTON - The Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles announced that its applications for the 2021 Low Number Plate Lottery are now being accepted online at Mass.Gov/RMV, using the Online Service Center. Applicants must apply by Aug. 27. If a person is selected for a low number plate, they will be notified after the virtual drawing takes place on Sept. 8.

This year, there are 200 plates available through the low plate lottery. Some of this year’s low plate characters are 210, 2762, 1H, 24L, F1, J25 and X25. The complete list is online at Mass.Gov/RMV.

Applicants should note that there is no fee to apply. However, should the applicant be selected as a winner, there is a fee that will be required, as the fee is required of all new license plates, as well as a standard registration fee.

Customers are encouraged to visit the RMV’s website or follow @MassRMV on Twitter for upcoming details on the virtual low plate drawing. The drawing will be live-streamed and a link to the event will be made available soon. In addition, applicants will be sent a notification via email. The lottery results will be posted on the RMV’s website.

Lottery rules and eligibility requirements

The 2021 Low Number Plate Lottery is online submission only. Only one entry per applicant will be accepted, regardless of the number of active registrations the applicant has. An applicant must be a Massachusetts resident with a currently active, registered, and insured passenger vehicle. Companies/corporations may not apply.

MassDOT (Registry of Motor Vehicles, Highway, Mass Transit, and Aeronautics) employees, including contract employees, and their immediate family members are not eligible. (“Immediate family member” refers to one’s parents, spouse, children, and brothers and sisters.) Requests for specific plate numbers will not be honored. Eligible applicants will be considered for all plates listed. Plates will be awarded in the order in which they are listed on Mass. Gov/RMV. An applicant’s registration and license cannot be in a non-renewal, suspended, or revoked status at the time of entry, the time of the drawing, or the time of the plate swap. As such, an applicant must not have any outstanding excise taxes, parking tickets, child support, warrants, or unpaid E-ZPass/ Fast Lane violations. Online entries must be completed by the end of day on Aug. 27.

By law, lottery winners must be announced by Sept. 15. Lottery results will be available on the RMV website at Mass. Gov/RMV.

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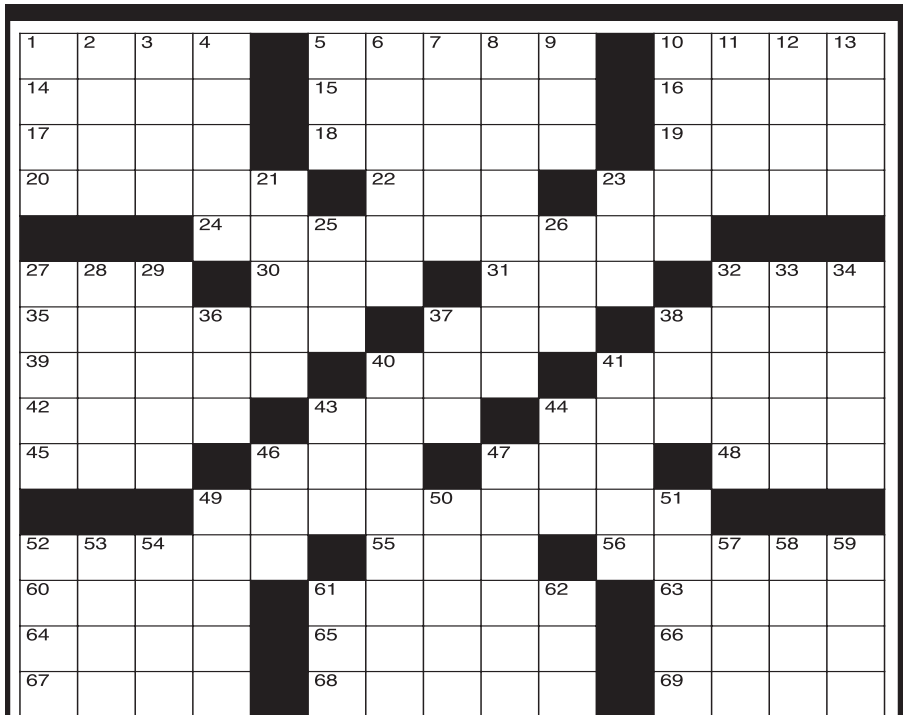
By law, lottery winners must be announced by Sept. 15. Lottery results will be available on the RMV website at Mass. Gov/RMV.

All winners will be notified by the RMV in writing with instructions on how to transfer their current registration to their new lottery plate. Winners will have until Dec. 31, to swap their plates. Unclaimed plates will be forfeited after Dec. 31, and the 25 selected alternate winners will then be notified as to what lottery plate they won. Plates will be registered to the winning applicant only.

All plates remain the property of the RMV even after registration.

All information received, including names of all applicants and the list of winners, is subject to release in accordance with the Massachusetts Public Records law.

Low Number Plate Lottery rules and eligibility can also be found at <https://www.mass.gov/2021-low-plate-lottery>.



CLUES ACROSS

1. Fashion accessory
5. Subatomic particle
10. Ethnic group of the Philippines
14. Popular cookie
15. Fabric
16. Alcoholic liquor
17. Peter __, Dutch portrait painter
18. Longtime Chicago mayor
19. A famous “Lady”
20. Islamic calendar month
22. Rocky peak
23. Polio vaccine developer
24. Songs sung in open air
27. Military movements
30. Male parent
31. Beloved hot beverage
32. Female sibling
35. Tackled the QB
37. Set a dog on someone
38. Long live! (Spanish)
39. Porticos
40. Pouch
41. Smooth fabric

CLUES DOWN

1. Fifth notes of major scales
2. Region
3. Your consciousness of your own identity
4. Georgetown athletes
5. They follow A
6. Spoke
7. Hairdressers’ domain
8. Extravagantly theatric
9. End-blown flute
10. Heroic tales
11. Member of a Semitic people
12. Members of a priestly caste
13. Southern Ghana people
21. Counsels
23. Body of water
25. Awesome!
26. Calendar month
27. Native of region in Caucasus
28. Indian city
29. Exclusive
32. Alaskan town
33. Covered with ivy
34. Loose granular substances
36. Native American tribe
37. Written American English
38. Holiday (informal)
40. Add up
41. Small brown and gray rails
43. Get off your feet
44. Express disgust
46. Surface of the ground
47. Put into a silo
49. Belief
50. British noblemen
51. Tennis game
52. Dry, protective crust
53. Swiss river
54. Large integers
57. La __ Tar Pits, Hollywood
58. Every one of two or more
59. “Deadpool” actor Reynolds
61. Earlier
62. Peter’s last name

HISTORY | from page 4

When he died in 1916 at the age of 40, London had already written 50 works of fiction and non-fiction that are still loved.

The Grateful American Book Prize recommends “The Call of the Wild,” by Jack London.

Federal Bureau of Investigation

The Department of Justice was founded in 1870, but in its

first four decades of operation,

it hired rent-a-cop investigators, who were usually borrowed from other government agencies, including the Secret Service. Finally, on July 26, 1908, the division assembled a dedicated aggregation of its own.

U.S. Attorney General Charles Bonaparte hired 10 experienced, former Secret Service agents that morphed to 34, and

eventually 300.

Meanwhile, J. Edgar Hoover joined the Department in 1917; he was promoted to special assistant to Attorney General A. Mitchell Palmer in 1919, and by 1924, was the acting director of the Bureau of Investigation. The entity officially became known as the Federal Bureau of Investigation in 1935.

Hoover remained direc-

tor until his 1972 death, but his reign was sullied by controversy and corruption; today, the Senate approves prospective director nominees, and limits service to one, 10-year term.

The Grateful American Book Prize recommends “The True Story of J. Edgar Hoover and the FBI,” by Barry Denenberg.

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With summer scammers lurking, Better Business Bureau identifies red flags

By Dalton Zbierski
Editor

WORCESTER – Scams come in all shapes and sizes, and can be quite intricate. Regardless of how clever a scheme may be, a scammer’s primary objective is simple; emptying the wallet or bank account of a victim.

Residents can stay ahead of scams by educating themselves on the latest ploys. During the summer of 2021, with COVID-19 restrictions lifted, scammers are hard at work, but ordinary individuals can arm themselves with a wealth of knowledge that will foil most cons.

“Any time someone asks you to pay an upfront fee for a service they have not provided, that’s a red flag. If you get pressure to accept the offer now or it’s gone forever, that’s also a red flag,” said Nancy Cahalen, President/CEO of Better Business Bureau serving Western MA and Northern CT.

Being asked to use unconventional, non-refundable payment methods such as a pre-paid debit card or gift card to complete an online transaction is highly suspicious. Getting that money back is “next to impossible,” said Cahalen.

Paying with a credit card is encouraged, as protections are built in.

When a product or sale seems too good to be true, it often is. One must remember that not all great deals are legitimate.

Scammers can lure in vacationers by offering unusually low fees for a “great” amenity that either does not exist or does not match the online description.

Before booking a hotel room, a timeshare or a rental car, consumers are encouraged to do thorough research, vetting the company or merchant to decipher if the party is reputable.

“Find a company independent of a Google search and contact them on their website,” said Cahalen. “Beware of sponsored links and fake websites; always make sure that you click on the correct link for a company. When in doubt,



Photo submitted by Better Business Bureau
Nancy Cahalen, President/CEO of Better Business Bureau serving Western MA and Northern CT, is on a mission to ensure that residents are prepared to counter scammers this summer.

verify the deal directly with the company by calling them.”

Before renting a vacation house online, talk to the owner over the phone and check public records to verify that the address exists and is available for rent. Never seal the deal over an email, said Cahalen.

Additionally, if a cruise line or travel company advertises a vacation as being “free,” the trip may well include hidden costs and restrictions. Do your research.

While staying in a hotel, be aware of late night, fake calls that claim to originate from the front desk and ask guests to “re-verify” their credit card information.

“They’re not going to call you and wake you in the middle of the night, saying that there’s a problem with your credit card,” said Cahalen.

Furthermore, scammers have been known to leave fake menus outside of hotel rooms. When a

guest orders food, the culprit collects the credit card information and never delivers a meal.

“It’s so simple, it’s diabolical,” said Cahalen.

Guests who are staying in a residence or hotel room should be on alert for fake Wifi scams. When a guest logs into the “free” connection, scammers are able to collect all of the data that the traveler transmits.

“Always use a secure or private network if it’s absolutely necessary to access personal or financial accounts. Be very weary of free Wifi connections; they’re not safe,” said Cahalen.

Avoid doing any banking, transactions or checking personal accounts when using an open Wifi connection. Use a secure, private network to access personal or financial accounts.

POP-UP LAKE



Courtesy photo
Last week’s near-constant rain left its mark across the area. Here, Patrick Duquette captured the impact of the deluge on the football field, which turned into a mini-lake on aptly-named Water Street, just across the narrow road from the Journal Register office.

TCC store in Ware to give away backpacks with school supplies on Aug. 1

WARE – Round Room LLC, the nation’s largest Verizon authorized retailer, announced that its TCC and Wireless Zone stores are donating 140,000 backpacks full of school supplies to children across the U.S., including its store in Ware at 350 Palmer Road in the Gibbs Crossing shopping center.

This is the company’s ninth annual School Rocks Backpack Giveaway. Since 2013, TCC has donated 1.2 million backpacks filled with supplies to students nationwide to ensure children are well prepared for the start of the school year. TCC will also award three students each \$10,000 college scholarships.

Nearly 750 participating TCC and Wireless Zone stores are inviting local families to their locations on Sunday, Aug. 1, between 1 to 4 p.m., to pick up a backpack filled with pencils, paper, a pencil box, a ruler, folders and glue. One backpack per child present will be given away on a first-come, first-serve basis while supplies

last. Each store location will adhere to local and CDC guidelines to provide a safe environment for event attendees and TCC employees.

“The start of the school year is an exciting time, and we are thrilled to support the education of the youth in our communities through our School Rocks Backpack Giveaway,” said Scott Moorehead, CEO of Round Room, parent company of TCC. “By providing families across the country with essential school supplies, we’re easing the back-to-school shopping burden and helping set children up for success.”

According to the National Retail Federation, American families with school-aged children spent an average of \$789.49 on school supplies in 2020, totaling \$33.9 billion spent in America last year on school supplies alone. TCC is working to ease the strain of rising school supplies costs through its annual program.

For a list of TCC stores participating in the School Rocks Backpack

Giveaway or to find a store near you, visit locations.tccrocks.com. Each participating TCC store will donate up to 150 backpacks with all leftovers being donated to local schools.

Supporters of the School Rocks Backpack Giveaway are encouraged to use hashtags #SchoolRocks and #BetterTogether on Instagram and Twitter to help spread the word.

TCC is a Culture of Good Inc. company, and makes ongoing investments in the local communities where it operates. Recently, the company donated \$50,000 to in-person children’s summer camps as part of its annual Kids Rock program.

Additionally in 2021, TCC donated more than 500 appreciation boxes to schools nationwide honoring teachers juggling education hurdles caused by the coronavirus pandemic. The company’s nonprofit organization, TCC Gives, recently surpassed \$2.5 million in donations to local nonprofits across the country as well.

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New book celebrating National Parks has a local connection

By Michael Harrison
mharrison@turley.com

How many U.S. National Parks have you visited?

Whether you’ve seen them all, or have yet to experience any of them, a Palmer native is part of the team behind a new book that celebrates eight of them through carefully curated art.

John Paul Boilard was creative director of recently-published “The Art of the National Parks” (Insight Editions, 59parks.net), which compiles six years’ worth of hand screen printed posters featuring selected National Parks depicted by more than 50 artists from around the world. The book is listed as the No. 1 best seller on Amazon in the new Art Books category for the last three weeks.

“Very wild!” Boilard, aka JP Boneyard, said.

“Most people know me as ‘JP Boneyard’ as far back as 2003,” Boilard, who takes full ownership of the nickname, said.

Boilard provided some behind-the-scenes insight on how much work it takes to produce a single poster, let alone 59.

“A poster typically takes around two or three months from conception to print,” he said.

“A lot can depend on the number of colors in a print – the complexity of a composition – or the time of year. We typically tour the U.S. for five months of the year hosting gallery shows of the series. That can



Courtesy photos
An artist’s depiction of Rocky Mountain National Park for the recently published “The Art of the National Parks.”

often mean we’re on double duty between shows and creating new work.”

Looking over the different works of art, one might assume each artist communed with the park he or she was assigned. While some have spent time at their parks, not all have.

“Many of the artists have visited the park they’re illustrating,” Boilard said.

But it’s not required. The bottom line is whether or not the commissioned artist can capture the spirit of the park, be it in-person or from a considerable distance.

“If they haven’t, we may have photos from our own visits to use as reference,” Boilard explained.

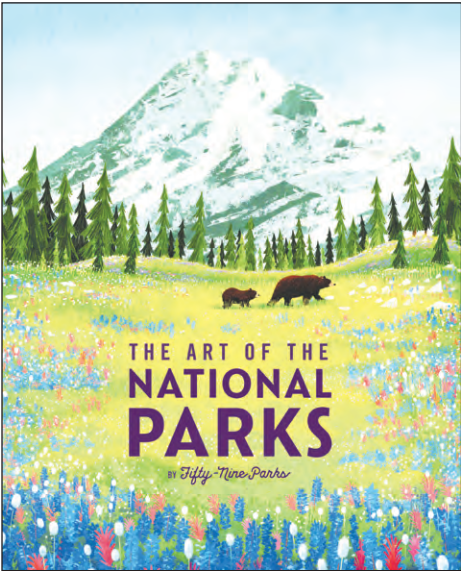
“About one-third of the artists in the series live abroad. Some have never visited the U.S. or a park. We always prefer inclusivity over exclusivity. The fewer barriers the better. It’s awesome if an artist can draw upon first-hand experience. If they can’t, we feel they should still be able to contribute even if they’ve never been to a park in the U.S.”

The posters and the parks they represent have a symbiotic relationship when it comes to cross-promotion, Boilard said.

“One of the highest aspirations for the series is to get park nerds into posters and poster nerds into the parks,” he said.

“We love hearing stories like the mom who loves parks and gets into posters with their son. Their son – the poster enthusiast – then visits their very first park with mom. We hear similar stories with the PARKS board game that we collaborated on with Keymaster Games. The game has inspired a lot of board game enthusiasts to visit the National Parks. We also hear about the game being a gateway of sorts for park enthusiasts. It’s fulfilling to know that the work we’re doing has a positive impact. Everything we make isn’t just meant to look nice; It’s a call to action to visit the parks. That’s why we also donate 5 percent of every poster sale-before profit-to The National Park Service.”

Insight Editions is also donating 2% of every book sale to similar institutions focused on conservation.



Palmer native John Paul Boilard was the creative director of “The Art of the National Parks,” a collection of posters from more than 50 artists.

Boilard is not humble bragging when he talks about how well the book turned out. In fact, he doesn’t bra at all. He seems almost loathe to talk about himself, refocusing most questions back to the work and the team that created it.

“The quality of the book is second to none,” he said.

“Insight Editions did such great work on it. All of the art comes alive in vivid color. Every poster is also accompanied by a fun write-up and facts about the corresponding park. The book includes a wonderful forward by Theresa Pierno, CEO of The National Parks Conservation Association. There’s an intro and some background about the series itself. The book also includes a brief section about the art of screen printing.”

One way to get Boilard to talk a little about himself is to invoke his hometown.

“This series – and this book – wouldn’t

be possible without my experiences growing up in Palmer,” he said.

“As a kid I spent so much of my time exploring the woods, swimming in the Swift River, and visiting The Quabbin Reservoir. My appreciation of nature was very much informed by my time in Palmer and Western Mass.”

He also said it was a nurturing environment for an aspiring artist.

“I was also fortunate to be a part of an amazing creative community in town and in the region,” Boilard said.

“My friend Michael Swiatlowski and I helped host over 200 DIY music and art events going all the way back to our time at Palmer High,” he said.

“Thirty-nine of those events took place in an empty storefront (The Oldstore) and 100 of those events took place in my mother’s backyard shed (“The Shed”). We hosted bands from all over the world. Mike and I would make screen-printed posters to promote these events. This is where I found my love of printmaking and design. It’s totally what led to my career and this series. I have Palmer, Mike, and my friends to thank for their inspiration, collaboration, and support. Sean Burns – an art teacher at Palmer High – was also big in helping encourage our interest in visual art.”

What Boilard may lack in self-promotion chops he makes up for with a boatload of gratitude.

“I’d just like to share my gratitude to my mom, Catherine Boilard, Mike Swiatlowski, Brian Buccaroni, Daniel Danger, and the community in Palmer,” he said.

“Hats off to all of the artists, printers, and folks behind the series and the book, too! There’s an old proverb that says ‘if you want to go quickly – go alone. If you want to go far-go together.’ That sums it up.”

To learn more about the Fifty-Nine Parks Print Series, go to 59parks.net.

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Date	Time
Saturday, Aug. 21, 2021	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sunday, Aug. 22, 2021	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Saturday, Sept. 18, 2021	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sunday, Sept. 19, 2021	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.


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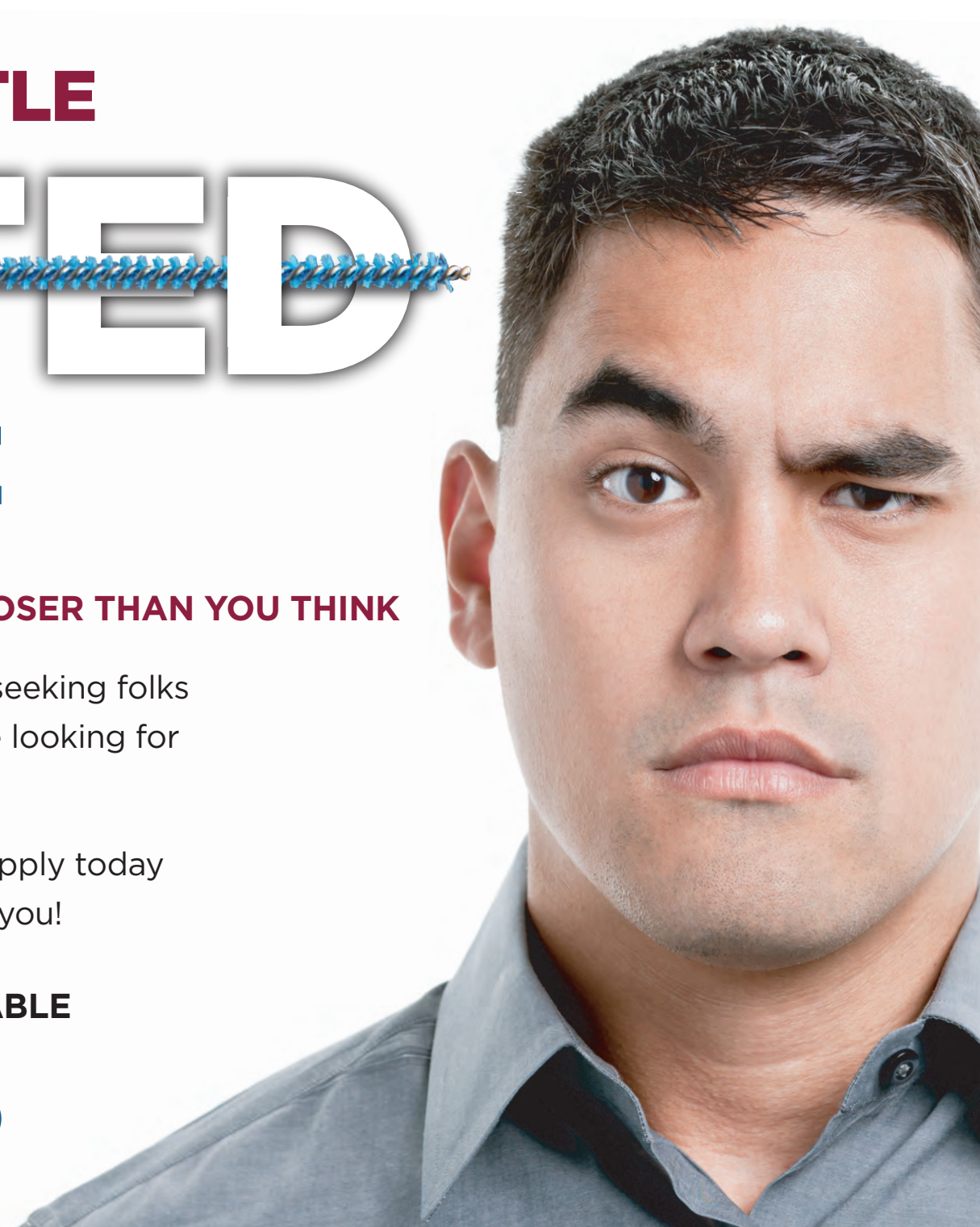
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SOCCKER

Mustangs take care of Chicopee



MONSON – The Monson High School girls summer soccer team continued to succeed in A Division action, downing Chicopee last Thursday evening. The game was originally supposed to be held in Monson, but was moved to Chicopee. Monson was able to adjust to the road trip just fine, with a 2-0 win.

Olivia Charzan makes her way up the field.

Photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com



Emily Provost tries to settle the ball.



Rylee Bonneau winds up for a throw-in.



Olivia Charzan winds up for a free kick.

SOCCKER

Monson splits double dip with Aldenville

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

PALMER—While the Major League baseball regular season is a marathon, the American Legion regular season is a sprint to the finish line, especially this year.

The Legion baseball season in Western Massachusetts normally starts in the middle of June and ends in late July. Because the MIAA baseball playoffs were pushed back a couple of weeks due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Legion season didn't start until June 27.

The weather was also a major factor during the first week of the Legion season as each team had a couple of games postponed or suspended.

Two of those teams are Aldenville Post 337 and Monson Post 241, who are both members of Zone 2. They split a doubleheader held at Legion Field in Palmer, on July 5.

Monson, who played their first home game of the Legion season, won the opening game, 4-2, in eight innings.

"Winning the first game in extra innings was huge for us," said Monson manager Steve Tripp. "It gave us the opportunity to sweep the doubleheader, but things just didn't go our way in the second game."

Aldenville, who were missing a couple of players in game one, celebrated a 12-2 victory in the nightcap.

"You have to give Monson a lot of credit for winning game one," said Aldenville manager Kyle Phillips. "We had our whole team here for the second game and our energy level was also a lot different. We had nine hits and seven walks in that game. I think we have a very strong team this year."

Aldenville, who have players from Chicopee and Holyoke listed on their roster, had a 2-1 record following the doubleheader.

Monson, who have players from Ware, Palmer, and Monson, had a 1-2 overall record.

The first game of the doubleheader was an old fashion pitcher's duel.

Monson's starting pitcher

was righthander Keith Smith, who helped the Ware varsity baseball team advance into the Western Mass. Division 4 finals.

Smith allowed two runs on two base hits with nine strikeouts in six innings against Aldenville. The only reason Smith didn't pitch longer was because he had reached the 105-pitch limit.

"Keith is our number one pitcher this year," Tripp said. "I wish that he could start every game for us, but he can't. He pitched really well in the first game."

The Aldenville starter in the first game was Brady Burnett, who's a crafty lefty. He was a sophomore pitcher on the Chicopee High School varsity baseball team this past spring.

"Brady is a young pitcher for us," Phillips said. "He pitched very well in tonight's game."

Burnett, who allowed two runs (one earned) on seven hits, came very close to winning his first Legion game.

Aldenville, who was the home team in game one, held a slim 2-1 lead entering the top of the seventh inning, but Monson managed to tie the score.

James Delaney drew a leadoff walk and moved to second base following a perfect sacrifice bunt by Thomas Swift. After advancing to third on a wild pitch, Delaney scored the tying run when Chance Lee lined a single into right field.

At that point, Phillips decided to make a pitching change. He took out Burnett, who threw 90 pitches, and replaced him with righthander Brandon McKenna.

Lee was thrown out trying to steal second and the next batter grounded out to the first baseman ending the inning.

Monson relief pitcher Mike Mayberry, who's a righty, struck out two batters in the bottom half of the seventh. Aldenville also had a runner thrown out trying to steal second base.

Monson took the lead for the first time in the top of the eighth.

Dillon Slattery, who drew a one-out walk, scored the go-ahead run following another walk by James Delaney. Jacob Bollea, who

MONSON | page 10

SOCCKER

Blue Sox swept in DH, announce promotions

HOLYOKE – The Valley Blue Sox hosted the Martha's Vineyard Sharks in a double header on Thursday, their second meeting of the week.

Holyoke Gas and Electric sponsored a Blue Sox mini helmet giveaway for the first 250 fans through the gates at MacKenzie Stadium.

The first of the two seven inning games ended with a score of 2-1 in favor of the Sharks, and the second game started at 6:35 p.m., and ended with a score of 2-4.

Both low-scoring games saw good offensive attempts from the

Blue Sox, but top-seeded Valley had trouble breaking the scoring deficit, whereas the Sharks capitalized on big hits to secure their leads in both games.

The losses tonight didn't change the Blue Sox standings as first in the Southern Division. The team will host the Bristol Blues on Saturday at 6:35 p.m. for St. Patrick's Day in July, sponsored by Holyoke Medical Center.

The Blue Sox invite all fans to celebrate by wearing green to the

BLUE SOX | page 10

SOCCKER

Pioneers score another shutout to open playoffs

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW—The Western Mass. Pioneers scored three or more goals in six of their seven regular season home matches. The Pioneers scoring spree continued in the USL League Two Eastern Conference quarterfinal match.

The second-seeded Pioneers scored a pair of goals in each half against the seventh-seeded Cedar Stars Rush en route to a 4-0 shutout victory before the largest crowd of the season at Lusitano Stadium last Friday night.

"It feels very good to win a home playoff match," said Pioneer's head coach Federico Molinari. "We played very well as a team tonight. Everyone has worked very hard this season."

The Pioneers, who finished the regular season in first place in the Northeast Division standings with a 10-2-2 record, won a home playoff game for the first time since 2005.

"Winning a playoff game feels amazing, especially doing it at home," said Pioneer's captain Federico Gutierrez, who anchors the defensive unit. "We were able to score four goals in tonight's match, which will give us a lot of confidence going into tomorrow's match against Seacoast."

Back in 2005, the Pioneers defeated the Wilmington (North Carolina) Hammerheads in the USL Second Division semifinals at Lu-



Jordan Koduah sends a shot at the goal. Photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

sitano Stadium before losing to the Charlotte Eagles in penalty kicks.

Jay Willis, who's one of the Pioneer assistant coaches, along with Dennis Gomes and John Voight, was a member of the Pioneers 2005 squad.

The quarterfinal match began an hour later than it was scheduled to start.

A thunderstorm passed by Lusitano Stadium delaying the start of the first quarterfinal match of the evening between the third-seeded Long Island Rough Riders and the sixth-seeded Seacoast United Phantoms by about 45 minutes. That match was decided in extra time with the Phantoms pulling out a 2-1 upset victory.



Martin Oyenard fields a pass.

Both of the Pioneers first half goals against the Cedar Stars (8-3-3), who are from New Jersey, were scored on free kicks by midfielder Samir Regragui, who's from the United Kingdom.

During the 22nd minute of the first half, Sebastian Arriagado was fouled by a Cedar Stars player setting up the Pioneers first goal.

Regragui, who's a member of the AIC men's soccer team, took the free kick from about 30 yards out. Cedar Stars goalie Ethan Koehler froze on Regragui's line-drive shot, which sailed into the left corner of the net.

"It was a power shot, and luckily their goalie didn't make the save on it," said Regragui, who's a first-year member of the Pioneers squad.



Federico Ucar follows through on his shot.

"It was good for us to get a 1-0 lead in this match."

Late in the first half, Regragui converted another free kick from about 20 yards away giving his team a 2-0 halftime advantage.

"I just saw the keeper positioned on the other side of the goal and I sent a bender into the left corner," Regragui added. "I'm more of a defensive midfielder, so it feels nice to get on the score sheet."

Regragui's lone goal of the regular season came in the final home match against Black Rock FC.

Regragui, who played in 11 regular season matches, took all of the Pioneers corner kicks and free kicks in the quarterfinal match.

PIONEERS | page 10

SOCCKER

T-Birds seek fan help for jersey design

SPRINGFIELD, Mass. - The Springfield Thunderbirds seeking fan-created jersey designs as part of their Ice-O-Topes Jersey Design Contest.

Attention all cromulent artists and designers.

Have you ever wanted to design a hockey jersey? The Springfield Thunderbirds are looking for designs for the next Ice-O-Topes jersey! One lucky design will be chosen as the official 2022 Spring-

field Ice-O-Topes jerseys to be worn on the ice during the February 12, 2022 game.

Your artistic ability doesn't matter; we want to see your designs.

The contest winner will receive a custom jersey in their design & an Ice-O-Topes prize pack; all entrants will be entered into a random drawing to receive the custom winning jersey.

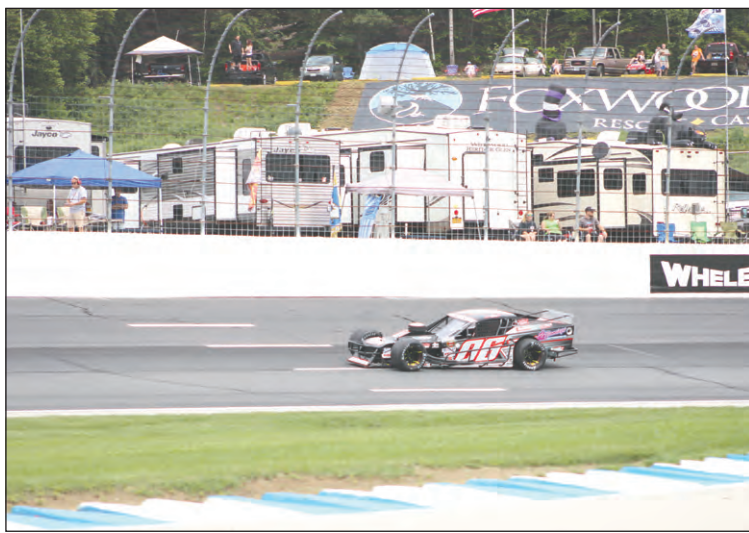
T-BIRDS | page 10

Rameau has tough finish in Whelen 100

LOUDON, N.H. -- It wasn't the exact day that Sam Rameau and the Rameau Family Motorsports team were looking for at New Hampshire Motor Speedway, but Rameau drove the car to a solid 12th place finish in the Whelen 100 on Saturday, July 17. In just his second NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour start of the season, Rameau struggled with power under the hood throughout the day, going a lap down in the middle of the race.

However -- with the assistance of a timely lucky dog -- Rameau got back on the lead lap and charged to a solid 12th place finish in the No. 06 Central Mass Tree machine. The team worked hard all day and Rameau rewarded them with a strong finish in the field of nearly 30 cars.

"We struggled big time in



Submitted photo
Sam Rameau did not finish the way he wanted, coming in 12th in the Whelen 100 on July 17.

practice with a carburetor issue

overcame that issue, but the car this morning," Rameau said. "We handled well all day. We think

something might be up with the motor -- I just think it's a bit tired. It's time for a new one. We look forward to getting to Beech Ridge Motor Speedway on August 21 for our next NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour race. It's a good day when you come out of these shows in one piece and we did that today."

Sam Rameau will return to the track on Saturday, July 24, with the Tri Track Open Modified Series at Star Speedway in Epping, New Hampshire. He currently sits second in their championship standings with one victory early in the season. For more information on Sam Rameau and Rameau Family Motorsports, visit SammyRameau.com and follow the team on Facebook.

SAFL football returning this fall

REGION -- Sign-ups are still available in some communities, but the Suburban Amateur Football League is a full go for this fall with a tentative varsity schedule recently put out. The schedule is contingent on teams confirming and having the numbers for competition.

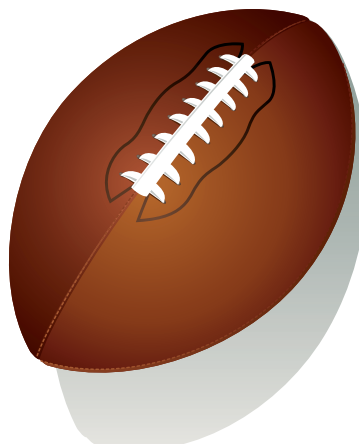
With overall numbers declining, the junior varsity schedule will have to wait until close

to the season. According to the SAFL website, the league is being helped out by Dick's Sporting Goods with SAFL Football and Cheer Appreciation Weekend this weekend, July 23 to 25. The business is offering 20% off coupons to customers for anything in the store.

Following that, the SAFL will begin holding a number of "weigh-in" dates for teams. The

weigh-ins are to determine player eligibility for line and other positions.

There has not been an announcement about the SAFL kickoff event usually held in late August and featuring teams in short exhibition games. It was last held in 2019 in Wilbraham. The 2020 season was completely cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



BLUE SOX | from page 9

game! Antonio Balducci, the Valley Blue Sox pick for the NECBL All Star Game Fan Vote, has been leading the standings in both the Southern and Northern Divisions. Make sure to cast your votes and support the Blue Sox representing Holyoke in Newport on Sunday, July 18th at the 2021 All Star Game. The Valley Blue Sox have many exciting promotions coming up in the remainder of the season. Here is a list of fun game nights to attend this summer

July 21 -- Holyoke Medical Center's Clinic Night, with a first pitch thrown by Interim Mayor of Holyoke Terry Murphy.

July 29 -- O'Connell Development Group and Holyoke Boys and Girls Club Night, who are being honored with a donation. The Valley Blue Sox will be retiring #41 Endy Morales' number in recognition of his time spent with the Blue Sox and all he has contributed to baseball in Western Mass.

July 31 -- UMass Amherst Athletics Night, where members of the National Champion UMass Hockey team will be in attendance, in addition to members of the women's basketball team. Come down to MacKenzie Stadium for a photo with the National Champions and their trophy.

T-BIRDS | from page 9

Click here to download the design templates and related elements, read the guidelines below and get designing.

Guidelines:

Designs should be submitted HERE using the jersey templates

The dotted lines on the template represent areas of your design that may be covered up by other uniform elements (such as numbers, collar, stitching, labels, etc). Don't let the dotted lines inhibit your design, but please realize that design elements in those areas may ultimately be covered up on the final jersey.

Design elements on the shoulders and chest may end up being partially covered by logos.

Please create your design by using the Thunderbirds branding colors and logos provided HERE. This will allow us to re-create the design digitally when the jersey is sent to production. If you prefer to submit a jersey design built with a graphic design software program, that is acceptable but not necessary. File formats accepted include: hi resolution JPEG, .PDF, .AI, .EPS

Fans can submit their jersey designs three different ways:

Fill out the form on MassLive and attach your file to your submission.

Mail your submission to Springfield Thunderbirds, 45 Bruce Landon Way, Springfield, MA 01103.

Email your submission to info@springfieldthunderbirds.com. Make sure to clearly list your name, hometown, and phone number in the email submission so that we can get in touch with you.

The deadline to submit a jersey design is Sunday, August 1 at 5 p.m.

Rules

The top 16 designs chosen by the Thunderbirds will be finalists.

The Thunderbirds staff and ownership will choose one winning design, which will be worn on Feb. 12, 2022

The winning jersey design will become the property of the Springfield Thunderbirds

The Thunderbirds reserve the right to make design modifications to the winning design, as needed.

The winner will receive a personalized version of their jersey and a Thunderbirds Prize Pack.

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Athlete of the Week

Thomas Swift
Pathfinder

Swift, a member of the Monson Legion team, used a rare sacrifice bunt to help Monson tie the score in a doubleheader against Aldenville. To nominate someone for Athlete of the Week, contact Managing Sports Editor Gregory A. Scibelli at 413-283-8393 ext. 258 or send an e-mail to gscibelli@turley.com.

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MONSON | from page 9

was hit by a pitch, also scored on a wild pitch.

Aldenville put two runners on base in the bottom half of the inning, but Mayberry ended the opening game with a pop-up and a flyball out.

Aldenville took a 1-0 lead in game one following an RBI single to right by Darrian DeJesus with two outs in the third inning. DeJesus led the Aldenville offensive attack with three hits in the opener.

Monson tied the score in the top of the fourth on an RBI single to left field by Dominic Allen.

Aldenville retook the lead in the sixth inning without the benefit of a base hit.

Monson scored three runs in their final two at-bats to earn their first win of the Legion season.

There was not as much drama in the nightcap.

PIONEERS | from page 9

"I'm thankful that coach Molinari and my teammates have a lot of trust in me," he said. "I always do my best at every training session and in every game. We just want to keep playing games together as long as possible."

The home team took a 3-0 lead in the 49th minute when forward Patrick Agyemang doubled the ball into the box before firing a low shot into the back of the net.

Ten minutes later, Agyemang gained possession of the ball before sending a crossing pass to Ignacio Lerech, who put a shot into the left corner sealing the quarter-final victory.

Lerech led the Pioneers with 11 goals during the regular season.

The Cedar Stars played the final 30 minutes of the contest with 10 men, as Tony Yeboah received a red card from referee Randall Kelley.

Western Mass. goalkeeper Blake Mullen only made two saves in posting his ninth shutout of the season.

The other members of the Pioneers defensive unit besides Gutierrez are Federico Ucar, Nicholas Oberrauch, and Carlos Emery.



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Photos by Gregory A. Scibelli
Alejo Bzurovski looks up the field with possession of the ball.

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Journal Register

What you need to know about the Delta variant and its spread across the country

SPRINGFIELD – Are you worried about the Delta variant?

If you are unvaccinated, then you should be, notes Dr. Armando Paez, chief, Infectious Disease Division at Baystate Health.

According to Johns Hopkins University COVID-19 data for the first week of July, 24 states have seen an uptick of at least 10% in cases. First identified in India, the variant has accounted for 51.7% of all new COVID infections in the United States over a two-week period ending July 3, notes the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

The rapid spread of the variant along with the fact that as of Thursday, July 8, less than half of the U.S. population – 47.7% - was fully vaccinated, puts in jeopardy the nation’s efforts to beat the virus.



A: If you are not yet completely vaccinated, get it done. In the meantime, continue to wear your mask, practice social distancing and wash your hands frequently.

Q: What about young children who can’t get vaccinated yet?

A: Vaccination studies in young children are ongoing and data should be available soon. In the meantime, unvaccinated children should continue to wear a mask, particularly in indoor public places.

Q: Some health experts continue to say you do not need to mask to protect yourself against the Delta variant if you have been vaccinated? What is your opinion?

A: If you are completely vaccinated, the risk is significantly low in contracting COVID-19, particularly if you live in a community where there is low prevalence of infection. Masking may confer additional protection even if you are fully vaccinated in high prevalence areas, particularly in crowded settings as vaccination does not confer 100% protection. If you have a medical condition or are taking medications that weaken your immune system, masking also will offer extra protection.

For more information on Baystate Health, visit [HYPERLINK “https://www.baystatehealth.org/”](https://www.baystatehealth.org/) or “_blank” baystatehealth.org.

OSV to present ‘Fairy Tale Farm’

STURBRIDGE – Beginning Aug. 12 and running Thursday through Sunday for the following two weekends, Old Sturbridge Village, the oldest living history museum in New England, will host the live performance “Fairy Tale Farm.” With a map in hand, guests will have the freedom to explore every inch of the village as the sun goes down.

Guests will walk the village to various buildings, which become the stage for each performance. Characters step out of their “homes” for the first time since the pandemic and are faced with real-world, grown-up issues.

Pinocchio is a former child star coming to terms with his life as a “real boy.”

Recently awakened Beauty (formerly sleeping) is a princess-turned-Instagram star.

Little Red’s once-devoured grandmother, Granny Lil, is back and feisty

as ever.

Goldilocks (who is newly engaged to Baby Bear) is an ambitious young tech entrepreneur launching her new product.

A third little pig named Vincent whose rational thinking has kept him alive.

Hansel, who’s determined to get in shape post-pandemic and Gretel, who’d prefer to stay in quarantine.

Fairy Tale Farm at Old Sturbridge Village will also feature music by Worcester-based Gracie Day, whose mixture of rock and soul is “influenced by her parents’ music of the 60s and 70s” will help bring the “enchanted” village to life.

Tickets will be available through the Old Sturbridge Village Museum website. Adult member and non-member tickets are \$20; youth member and non-member are \$15.

Here are 10 things you need to know about the Delta variant:

1. The Delta variant, also known as B.1.617.2, is a “variant of concern” per the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) classification.

2. Similar to other variants previously reported, the Delta variant differs from the original strain due to genetic mutations that give it an advantage to infect more people, an adaptive evolution of the virus.

3. Most concerning mutation of this variant is L452R that confer changes in the spike protein that make it more transmissible and can help it to evade the immune system.

4. It was predicted to be and now is the dominant SARSCoV2 variant circulating in the U.S.

5. It is the most infectious strain reported so far, more infectious (~40-60% more) compared to the alpha strain (first emerged in the UK, already ~ 50% more transmissible compared to original strain and the predominant strain in the U.S. until recently).

6. It is still being evaluated and is unconfirmed if it is more dangerous compared to other strains.

7. In general, COVID-19 due to the Delta variant is treated the same way at this time.

8. Based on most recent reports, currently authorized COVID-19 vaccines (Pfizer, Moderna and Johnson & Johnson) in the U.S. offer significant protection against severe disease and hospitalization due to COVID-19 by the Delta variant.

9. “Breakthrough” infections due to the Delta variant among vaccinated individuals can occur infrequently, but most likely will be mild disease or asymptomatic cases.

10. The most vulnerable individuals to the Delta variant are those unvaccinated who have not been previously infected. Thus getting vaccinated against COVID-19 is still the best and safest way to protect oneself against the Delta variant.

Also, Dr. Paez offers more in-depth answers to your questions:

Q: What effects do you expect the Delta variant will have in winning the battle against COVID-19 in the country?

A: As the Delta variant spreads more easily (and potentially more dangerous), our vaccination efforts should appropriately increase to help prevent the spread. As has been described before, it is a “race” between vaccination and infection. Getting completely vaccinated remains the most effective and safest way to protect against COVID-19.

Q: There is talk about a Delta variant and “Delta plus” now, what is the difference?

A: The “Delta plus variant,” also known as B.1.617.2.1 or AY.1., is a sub lineage of the Delta variant. It acquired an additional mutation, K417N (also found in Beta and Gamma variants), that changes the spike protein that can make it even possibly more transmissible. It does not appear to be common at this time.

Q: How does the Delta variant differ from other COVID-19 variants? Are symptoms worse? How more contagious is it? Does it result in more severe illness?

A: The Delta variant has genetic mutations that make it different from the original strain and other variants. The most concerning mutation is the L452R that confer changes in the spike protein making it more transmissible and help evade the immune system. It is estimated to be about 40 to 60% more transmissible than the Alpha variant (B.1.1.7). It appears to have a minimal effect on the monoclonal antibody therapies and moderate reduction in neutralization by the antibodies from those who recovered from COVID-19 and vaccination. Based on one study in Scotland, the Delta variant is associated with increased risk of hospitalization compared to the Alpha strain, particularly in those individuals with other medical conditions. It is still being confirmed if it can truly cause more serious illness. Fortunately, the COVID-19 vaccinations are still very effective in preventing serious illness and hospitalization due to COVID-19.

Q: Will the other variants continue to spread as well?

A: Other variants may continue to spread but the variant that is most transmissible will eventually predominate. The virus will continue to spread among those unvaccinated who were not previously infected (and recovered). If we reduce this group by vaccination, it will effectively prevent spread of the virus.

Q: Who is at risk?

A: The unvaccinated individuals who have not been infected (and recovered) from COVID-19 are most at risk because they are unprotected.

Q: Will the vaccines protect against the Delta variant?

A: Yes. Based on available information, complete vaccination with currently authorized COVID-19 vaccines – Pfizer, Moderna and Johnson & Johnson will offer significant protection from getting symptomatic infection and serious illness due to COVID-19. The level of protection continues to be investigated, but so far, it appears that vaccination significantly protects one from the Delta variant, but not 100%.

Q: How can I protect myself against the Delta variant?

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

E-mail items to mharrison@turley.com or mail to Calendar Editor, Journal Register, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, for receipt by Monday of week for publication.

Editor's note: Due to the coronavirus pandemic, events featured in the Journal Register, including those previewed in stories, briefs and on the calendar page, may be canceled with little notice. The Journal Register encourages readers to contact event coordinators and organizers for updated event times. Have an event to promote? Email the information (in a Word doc or as email text – no PDFs, please – to mharrison@turley.com.

NOW

LEARN ABOUT MUSHROOMS: Ware Grange's next gardening workshop, "Introduction to Mushroom Identification," will be held 7 p.m. Friday, July 23, at the Grange Hall on Belchertown Road in Ware. Presenter will be Jess Evans from the Pioneer Valley Mycological Association who will discuss characteristics of mushrooms and basics of mushroom identification, focusing on common fungi found in our area. Due to social distancing, space is limited. Register in advance at waregrange@comcast.net or call 413-284-1135. Masks are required.

CHRISTMAS IN JULY CRAFTS FAIR: 11 a.m. July 24 Westview Creamery , 109 E Hill Road in Monson. Fun activities for the whole family. For more, visit the Hugs from Monson Facebook page or call 413-896-3962 or 413-627-0183.

BOOK SIGNING: Chuck Nothe, a Monson native, author, and a Vietnam veteran will be signing his newest book, "Five Names on a Granite Slab" 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, July 24, on the patio at Monson Free Library. The donated 40 books the library will sell for \$25 with proceeds benefiting library programs. Although Nothe is a fiction writer, "Five Names on a Granite Slab" is a true story of the Monson, Mas-

sachusetts men killed in Vietnam. The book is also available in Kindle form and paperback on Amazon under the author's name, Charles Nothe.

MAGIC SHOW: The Tommy James Magic Show premieres on the Hitchcock Academy lawn in Brimfield 4 p.m. Monday, July 26. Tickets are \$15 (if ordering more than three, pay \$10 for each additional ticket after the third one) and available at hitchcockacademy.org.

FREE ICE CREAM: In celebration of its first anniversary in Brimfield, First American Insurance Agency is offering free ice cream noon to 3 p.m. (while supplies last) July 27 at its branch on 30 Sturbridge Road in Brimfield. Non-client welcome.

SUMMER CONCERT SERIES: Hitchcock Free Academy welcomes everyone to a summer concert series featuring a variety of music July 28-Aug. 25. Go to hitchcockacademy.org to view the schedule and for more information.

THRIFT SHOP NOW OPEN: The Church Caboose Thrift Shop at Second Congregational Church, 1080 Pleasant Street in Palmer has bargains on clothing, household items, linens, books, crafts, puzzles, games and more. Come and see Fridays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Call 283-6958 for more information.

VIRTUAL DOG TRAINING COURSE WITH PET BEHAVIOR CONSULTING: This six-week virtual course hosted by the Palmer Library will be held noon-1 p.m. Fridays through Aug. 20. It begins with foundation skills that make up the base of all future training: teaching your dog to pay attention to you, develop impulse control, and calm down when you ask

them to. Attend virtually with your dog and learn how to communicate and work together. These Zoom classes are free to attend but registration is required, space is limited and a six-week commitment is encouraged. Register at palmerlibrary.org/events.

(PLEASE NOTE: The first eight participants who register will be able to interact and ask questions during each week's class. The following 10 registrations will be added to the wait list. Participants in the wait list will be able to watch the classes, but will not be able to interact or ask questions. Wait list participants will also fill any vacancies among the regular attendees in the order they registered.)

SENIOR OUTREACH ASSISTANCE: Call Holland Senior Center's Brenda Palmer, outreach coordinator, at 413-245-7108 ext. 115 or stop by the Center. Find out if you qualify for fuel or food assistance, transportation, as well as Aging in Place services. You might think you do not need it, but if you qualify for it, you certainly deserve it.

SOON

FREE CONCERT: The Keep Homestead Museum, located at 35 Ely Road, Monson, is excited to present a free concert at 1:30 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 1, featuring the popular group Livestock, which uses traditional bluegrass instrumentation to interpret a somewhat wider musical collection, reaching out into blues, folk, country, and rock 'n roll for their confirmed label of Bluegrass and Americana. The concert will be held on the lawn. In case of rain, it will be held in the barn. Refreshments will not be served, but you are welcome to bring your own. Water will be available. Attendees are encouraged to bring a lawn chair or a blanket. Social distancing is appreciated. There is no admission fee, but donations are welcome.

AT THE PALMER LIBRARY

The "Tails & Tales" themed summer reading program – open to all ages – as well as the adult programming and events, are offered to provide an enriching and entertaining experience for residents all summer long. Patrons of all ages can sign-up for the 2021 Tails & Tales Summer Reading Program at palmer.beanstack.org and at the end of the summer receive book prizes, T-shirts, and be entered to win a raffle prize.

AT THE HOLLAND LIBRARY

The Holland Library is now full re-opened. Hours are 3-8 p.m. Monday-Wednesday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Friday and 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday.

SUMMER READING PROGRAM: For residents 12 and younger, get your summer reading in and have a chance to win weekly prizes now through Aug. 28. Participation is easy, just follow these steps:

Visit the library to register and receive your kick-off bag with a reading log and fun summer stuff.

Read, or have a story read to you, for 20 minutes a day or more.

Place a sticker on your reading log each day you read.

Read five days a week, or more, and receive a WEEKLY PRIZE and a ticket for the GRAND PRIZE drawing!

Bring your reading log to the library, show us your reading stickers for the week, get your prize and ticket for the GP drawing!!

THEMED PROGRAMS:

Saturdays – Now-Aug. 7
Thursdays – through Aug. 19
Call the library for updates
Coming this Summer: Tails and Tales Children's Summer Reading Program.

Follow the Library on Facebook. Join the Community Book Club: The book club will meet online via Zoom. Copies of the monthly book selection, in a variety of formats, are available for curbside checkout at the library. Contact the Holland Community Center for more information by calling them at 413-245-3163. Like them on Facebook for updates. To Join the Zoom meeting: Meeting ID: 736 9214 3025; Passcode: p95795.

SUMMER READING: The Holland Library has all the summer reading for Tantasqua High and Middle school students. Just ask at the desk!

SIGN UP NOW

POETRY WORKSHOP: Come and Write at the House of Art. A four-week poetry event sponsored by the Monson Arts Council on Monday evenings, Sept.13, 20, 27 and Oct. 4 from 6:30-8:30. Fee for this special poetry event will be \$15 for all four sessions led by Monson poet Gay Paluch. The workshop will be a place where people write, share and explore types of poetry, search for places to publish, and learn to constructively critique poetry.

In 2011, Gay published her poems "Just This Morning," illustrated in watercolors by the late Virginia Midyette. She has also been published in several journals, including Freshwater, Silkworm 10, 11 and 12, the Common Ground Review, and The Anthology of Found Poetry.

There will be a six person limit to attend this event. Sign up early! To register, email Maureen@goodread.com or Maureen@monsonartscouncil.org.

Send Us Your Autumn Event Information

Turley Publications will print your Autumn event **FREE OF CHARGE** in our **Autumn Fest Supplement** which will be published **September 8, 2021.**

Total circulation of 85,000 reaching over 200,000 readers in the Pioneer Valley.

Deadline for Calendar submissions is August 16.



Community Autumn Events

Event Should Be Non-Profit & Open to the Public

FREE Calendar Listings Reaching over 200,000 Readers in the Pioneer Valley

Event Name

Date/Time

Location

Description

Cost

Contact name & phone number for more information

MAIL YOUR LISTING INFORMATION TO:

Turley Publications, Attn: Jamie Joslyn, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069
or email* them to: jamie@turley.com

***Be sure to indicate "Autumn Event" in the subject line of your email.**

DEATH
NOTICES

**Bessie Labonte
(Montos), 93**
Died: July 14, 2021



The Journal Register
OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries. One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$100, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

O B I T U A R I E S

Bessie (Montos) Labonte, 93

PALMER – Bessie (Montos) Labonte, 93, died of natural causes on July 14, 2021.

Born in Chicopee Nov. 29, 1927, her parents were James and Catherine (Nikitos) Montos. Bessie grew up in Chicopee Falls, and in 1946 she married Joseph (Al) Labonte of Chicopee. They lived in Chicopee Falls, then moved to Granby in 1951. In 1962, they moved to Lake Thompson in Palmer. Joseph died in 2011, and Bessie continued to live there until 2017, when she moved to Keystone Commons in Ludlow, then to The Wellington in Springfield in 2019.

Bessie worked part-time at area factories once her children were all in school, retiring from Wrights in Warren when her husband retired. They enjoyed camping and wintering in Flor-

ida for many years. In her leisure, she enjoyed having a cup of coffee and playing cards with a friend or just visiting. She was a fun-loving and funny person loved by many.

She was a devoted and loving mother of seven children. She will be deeply missed by her six surviving children: Susan Williams of Bellow Falls, Vt. and her life partner Edward; Catherine Cloutier and her husband Edward of Wilmington, Del.; Elaine Phifer and her husband Stephen of Brimfield; Diane Hazen and her husband Stu of Brimfield; David Labonte of Palmer; and AnnMarie Potts and her husband Joe of Pennsauken, N.J.

A son, Joseph Labonte



Jr., died in infancy in 1958. Bessie also leaves a large number of grandchildren, great grandchildren, nieces, and nephews. She loved each and every one and was proud of them all. She also leaves her brother-in-law Joseph (Rael) Labonte of New York and his life partner Yvette, and sister-in-law Marta (Marty) Labonte of Florida, who were much loved.

A funeral service was held July 19 at Beers & Story Palmer Funeral Home, followed by burial at St. Thomas Cemetery.

For those wishing, donations may be made in her memory to the Alzheimer's Association. For online guest book, please visit beersandstory.com.

Country Bank recognizes the President's Platinum Recipients

WARE – Country Bank, a full-service financial institution serving central and western Massachusetts, announced the recipients of the 2020 President's Platinum Award. The bank's recognition program, "CB Shines," encourages staff members to be on the lookout for co-workers who embody the bank's corporate values.

Within this program, an employee can receive different levels of recognition: Silver Spotlight (awarded anytime), Gold Star (awarded quarterly) and the President's Platinum (awarded annually).

"Country Bank's staff members contribute to the bank's success in so many ways throughout the year, and we are delighted to celebrate their contributions," said Country Bank President and CEO. "We know 2020 was a unique year for many and the recipients were very deserving of this award. The 2020 President's Platinum award was presented to both Dianna Lussier, risk management officer, and Nicholas Thompson, assistant manager, customer care center. Dianna and Nicholas both embody the bank's corporate values. In addition, their nominators recognized the contributions they make to the organization, their customers and co-workers. Our staff members are extremely dedicated, knowledgeable and committed to delivering the best service both to their external customers as well as their internal customers", stated Paul Scully, President, and CEO of Country Bank.

"Dianna's forward-looking



Courtesy photo

Nicholas Thompson, left, and Dianna Lussier were recently awarded Country Bank's 2020 President's Platinum Award.

and collaborative manner, as well as her willingness to think outside the box and assist others when a problem arises, is noteworthy," said Dawn Fleury, first senior vice president, and chief risk officer. "In addition, Dianna looks to add value in her cross-divisional relationships, assumes extra duties when needed, and is considerate of other's opinions."

"I am extremely honored and grateful to have been named the co-recipient of the prestigious 2020 President's Platinum Award. Winning this award would not have been possible without my mentors and colleagues' endless support and encouragement. I have learned to challenge myself and to use successes and setbacks as a way to continually develop my skillset," said Lussier.

"Nick is a driven individual and is committed to improving his skillset by stepping out of his

comfort zone and learning new things. Nick has been recognized for his professionalism and knowledge in Retail Banking. One of the most notable things about Nick is he doesn't shy away from times of friction or discomfort," said Ashley Swett, customer care center manager.

"Being a recipient of the Presidential Platinum Award is such an amazing honor. I am thankful to Paul and to Country Bank for all of the opportunities that have been provided to me," said Thompson.

Country Bank is a full-service mutual community bank serving central and western Massachusetts with 14 offices in Ware, Palmer, West Brookfield, Brimfield, Belchertown, Wilbraham, Ludlow, Leicester, Paxton, Charlton, and Worcester.

Police/Fire

Police Logs

PALMER POLICE
DEPT.

The Palmer Police Department responded to 400 calls and made seven arrests or summons for arrests July 13-20. Those arrested will appear at the Palmer District Court and are innocent until proven guilty:

Fire Logs

PALMER

The Palmer Fire Department responded to 16 calls July 14-19:

On Wednesday, July 14, at 11:44 a.m., the department responded to a smoke detector activation on Orchard Street. The department returned to service at 12:06 p.m.

On Thursday, July 15, at 10:37 a.m., the department responded to a smoke detector activation on North Main Street. The department returned to service at 11:13 a.m.

On Thursday, July 15, at 3:53 p.m., the department responded to motor vehicle accident with a fluid spill on Thorndike Street. The department returned to service at 4:15 p.m.

On Thursday, July 15, at 4:21 p.m., the department responded to a motor vehicle accident with an injury on Park Street. The department returned to service at 4:43 p.m.

On Friday, July 16, at 9:20 a.m., the department responded to a medical assist call on Thorndike Street. The department returned to service at 9:52 a.m.

On Friday, July 16, at 3:43 p.m., the department responded to a smoke detector activation on Breckenridge Street. The department returned to service at 3:53 p.m.

On Saturday, July 17, at 2:48 a.m., the department responded to a medical assistance call on Hill Street. The department returned to service at 3:32 a.m.

On Sunday, July 17, at 3:39 a.m., the department responded to a smoke detector activation on North Main Street. The department returned to service at 3:43 a.m.

On Sunday, July 17, at 3:20 p.m., the department responded to a medical assistance call on Breckenridge Street. The department returned to service at 3:41 p.m.

On Sunday, July 17, at 5:38 p.m., the department responded to a vehicle extrication on North Main Street. The department returned to service at 5:58 p.m.

On Saturday, July 17, at 8:41 p.m., the department responded to a flood assessment call on Rondeau Street. The department returned to service at 11:58 p.m.

On Sunday, July 18, at 10:15 a.m., the department responded to

Thursday, July 15

Justin Walker Ross, 21, of 125 Fenton Rd., Monson, was arrested at 4:20 p.m., on Park Street in Palmer, on charges of operating a motor vehicle under the influence of liquor and negligent operation of a motor vehicle.

Sunday, July 18

Jason Slattery, 47, of 140 Central, N. Reading, was arrested at 7:29 a.m., on Wilbraham Street in Palmer, on charges of operating a motor vehicle influence of liquor and negligent operation of a motor vehicle.

an alarm activation on Main Street. The department returned to service at 10:28 a.m.

On Monday, July 19, 8:15 a.m., the department responded to a water evacuation on Stimson Street. The department returned to service at 10:34 a.m.

On Monday, July 19, at 11:39 a.m., the department responded to a smoke detector activation on Church Street in Thorndike. The department returned to service at 12:25 p.m.

On Monday, July 19, at 6:27 p.m., the department responded to a smoke detector activation on North Main Street. The department returned to service at 6:43 p.m.

THREE RIVERS

The Three Rivers Fire Department responded to two calls July 13-18.

On Tuesday, July 13, at 4:34 p.m., the department responded to a public assistance call on Maple Lane. The department returned to service at 4:55 p.m.

On Sunday, July 18, at 9:18 a.m., the department responded to an EMS incident on Calkins Road. The department returned to service at 9:43 a.m.

BONDSVILLE

The Bondsville Fire Department responded to four calls July 13-19:

On Wednesday, July 14, at 11:26 p.m., the department responded to a mutual aid call in River Street in Belchertown for a structure fire. The department returned to service at 12:40 a.m.

On Thursday, July 15, at 1:13 p.m., the department responded to a medical assistance call on Main Street. The department returned to service at 1:30 p.m.

On Saturday, July 17, at 8:41 p.m., the department responded to a mutual aid call to Ware and Rondeau Street in Palmer to assist the Palmer Fire Department. The department returned to service at 11:45 p.m.

On Monday, July 19, at 4:38

Eastern States Exposition hosts 4-H summer event, July 25-29

WEST SPRINGFIELD – Eastern States Exposition will present the 4-H Summer Event for agricultural-minded youth in the region to showcase their educational work and take part in competitions with their animals, Sunday, July 25 through Thursday, July 29.

Competitions will take place for dogs, horses, dairy cows, sheep, dairy goats, and beef cattle. ESE has worked closely with its partner, the New England 4-H Council on planning and procedures for the event.

ESE Trustee and committee member Nick Barishian said, "We have joined forces with all six New England 4-H Programs, 4-H Staff, 4-H Volunteers, and 4-H Youth from across New England to re-imagine the New England 4-H Program to take its current best-in-class event, and bring it to an even better place, truly living the 4-H motto to 'Make the Best Better.'"

The event is sponsored by Eastern States Exposition, Farm Credit East and the New England 4-H Council.

4-H activities and events will continue to be held during The Big E, Sept. 17 to Oct. 3, including the New England 4-H Grilled Cheese and Milkshake Contests, various judging contests and skill-a-thons and project demonstrations of regional 4-H Clubs, which take place in the New England Center. The 4-H Beef Sale will also be held Sept. 27, and the public is invited to bid on the steers raised by 4-H-ers.

Additionally, innovative programming is being developed to further support 4-H youth and to educate them on career opportunities and workforce development.

The 2021 4-H summer daily schedule includes:

Sunday, July 25

Noon 8 p.m. 4-H Dog Rally and Showmanship in the Coliseum

Monday, July 26

8 a.m. to noon 4-H Dog Quiz Bowl and Awards in the Coliseum 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. 4-H

Beef Orientation in Mallory West

5 to 6:30 p.m. 4-H Beef Judging Contest in

Mallory West

6 to 7 p.m. 4-H Dairy Orientation in Mallory West

7 p.m. 4-H Dairy Goat Milk Out in Mallory East (Ring 2)

Tuesday, July 27

7 a.m. 4-H Dairy Goat Milk Out in Mallory East

(Ring 2)

9 to 11 a.m. 4-H Beef Marketing Contest in Mallory West

10:30 a.m. 4-H Dairy Goat Fitting and Showing in Mallory East (Ring 2)

1 to 4 p.m. 4-H Beef Showmanship in Mallory North

2 to 6 p.m. 4-H Horse Show in the Coliseum

3 to 5 p.m. 4-H Dairy Clipping Contest in Mallory West

West

4 to 6 p.m. 4-H Dairy Goat Jr Doe Show in Mallory East (Ring 2)

East (Ring 2)

5 to 8 p.m. 4-H Beef Cooking Contest in the Mallory Rotunda

7 p.m. 4-H Dairy Goat Milk Out in Mallory East

(Ring 2)

Wednesday, July 28

7 a.m. to 6 p.m. 4-H Horse Show in the Coliseum and Paddock North

8 a.m. to 2 p.m. 4-H Beef Type and Steer Show in Mallory North

9 a.m. to 3 p.m. 4-H Dairy Goat Sr. and Un-Reg. Doe Show in Mallory East (Ring 2)

9:30 a.m. 4-H Sheep Show and Fitting plus Show in Mallory East (Ring 3)

2 to 7 p.m. 4-H Dairy Type Show in Mallory North

4 p.m. 4-H Beef Records in Mallory

Thursday, July 29

7 a.m. to 1 p.m. 4-H Horse Show in the Coliseum

8 to 11 a.m. 4-H Beef Skill-A-Thon in Mallory West

9 a.m. to 1 p.m. 4-H Dairy Showmanship in Mallory North

1 p.m. 4-H Dairy Awards in Mallory North

1 to 2 p.m. 4-H Beef Awards in Mallory West



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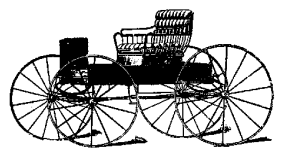
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HILLTOWNS
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Call for art celebrating recovery from substance abuse

WARE – The Ware Regional Recovery Center has put out a call to artists to submit art that brings awareness to celebrating recovery for September, which is Recovery Awareness Month. They are partnering with the ArtWorks Gallery, at 69 Main St.

Individuals who are in recovery from substance use face many challenges, as do their families and other loved ones. It is hard work and well worth it.

All media and skill levels welcome. There is no cost to enter the exhibit, and there will 25% commission by the gallery on any sales. Two-dimensional en-

tries and no larger than 16 inches by 20 inches, and must be wired to hang on the wall. Three-dimensional entries should be no larger than 20 inches.

Entries must be received by Aug. 13, and selections for the exhibit will be announced on Aug. 20. Selected artwork will be dropped off between Aug. 27 to Aug. 29.

There will be an artists' reception on Sunday, Sept. 12, from 3 to 5 p.m.

A downloadable entry form can be found at www.Facebook.com/War-eRRC.

Second Chance reduces spays and neuters to offer other veterinary care

EAST BROOKFIELD – The effects of the pandemic have created a perfect storm, this time on land. As COVID-19 took hold here in Massachusetts, residents took advantage of all the extra time at home to welcome a pet into their family.

While many veterinary practices were forced to reduce services or temporarily close, veterinary staff in vet hospitals determined to be there for pets embraced a new curbside procedure and quietly became the essential workers for pets across the state. Those that could worked long hours to see all the pets who needed help immediately and had nowhere else to turn. They were there for the pets that needed them, but it's taken a toll on their spirit.

The country was already facing a veterinarian and vet tech shortage before the pandemic. Now we have more pets that need care and veterinary hospitals and practices are seeing their staff numbers dwindle due to burnout. Current wait times at some local emergency hospitals are lengthy while some other emergency hospitals have decided to temporarily or permanently close.

Second Chance Animal Services, no strangers to saving pet lives, are meeting the crisis head on with an ironic solution. The nonprofit announced this week that they are significantly reducing capacity of their low-cost spay and neuter program at their North Brookfield Community Veterinary Hospital for the foreseeable future to help save the



Courtesy photo
Cassie is just one of the many pets who turned to Second Chance for life-saving surgery.

“Day after day, pet owners are bringing pets to us in critical need of emergency surgical care. Without our help, these pets would die, suffer needlessly, or be put to sleep because surgery cannot be scheduled in time to save the pet. We could not let this happen. We need to help as many pets as we can.”

Second Chance is asking for the patience and understanding of pet owners whose spays or neuters may be cancelled, and of all the pet owners still waiting to be scheduled. Second Chance has been working to alleviate the backlog of pets waiting which began in March of 2020 when spay and neuter services were suspended to conserve critical supplies that were then hard to acquire. “Our spay and neuter capacity is not only back to pre-pandemic levels, but higher than pre pandemic,” she said.

Normandin encourages pet owners to consider using the spay and neuter services at Second Chance's Springfield or Worcester hospitals. “We do not know when we will be able to fully resume our complete schedule of low-cost spay and neuter services at our North Brookfield hospital.” She said Second Chance will be opening a new vet hospital in Southbridge later this year which will help.

“Second Chance wants to be sure that there is surgical space to help as many pets in immediate urgent need as we can,” said Second Chance CEO Sheryl Blacato. “Spay and neuter surgery is important, but life-threatening critical needs must come first. Second Chance needs to be here for those pets who need urgent surgeries.”

lives of pets in critical need.

“Our colleagues at area emergency veterinary hospitals tell us they are doing their best to keep up with demand, but they are strained and operating beyond capacity,” says Second Chance COO of Hospitals Amanda Normandin. “The situation is dire. Wait times often exceed 12 hours at some facilities and others have made the decision to close for the remainder of the summer.”

Second Chance has significantly reduced the capacity of their low-cost spay and neuter program to do their part to help. Normandin explains



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